



# Press Release

*from State Representative La Shawn K. Ford*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 03, 2019**

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## **Congressman Davis and State Rep. Ford Call for Emergency Meeting to Confront Heroin Overdose Crisis**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, and Congressman Danny K. Davis, D-Illinois, are calling for an emergency meeting of all interested stakeholders to discuss approaches to confront the on-going opioid overdose crisis especially affecting the West Side of Chicago. On Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at least 17 people experienced overdoses near the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Homan Avenue, and 4 people died. Ford and Davis will lead the discussion at the Salvation Army Freedom Center, just blocks from where those overdoses occurred, to advocate for measures to continue the fight against opioid addiction, to publicize what people can do to save someone's life if they experience an overdose, and to advocate for help for those with opioid use disorder.

Ford introduced and passed Public Act 100-1065, which permits health insurers in Illinois to provide coverage for recovery housing for persons with substance use disorders. Ford was also co-sponsor of House Bill 1 which became Public Act 99-0480, known as the Heroin Crisis Act, and Ford is a co-founder of the West Side Heroin Task Force. Ford, Davis, and participants will outline key strategies in dealing with the opioid overdose epidemic.

"If we can help people have normal, thoughtful lives where they don't feel the need to resort to drugs in order to feel okay," Davis said, "then the amount of money, trauma and other tragedies that we face as a nation could be curtailed."

**What:** Emergency Meeting to Confront Heroin Overdose Crisis

**Who:** Congressman Danny K. Davis, State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, Habilitative Systems, Inc., Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center, Hartgrove Hospital, Norwegian-American Hospital, Mt. Sinai Hospital, The Loretto Hospital, Lawndale Christian Community Health Center, PCC Community Wellness Center, Prevention Partnership, Westside Health Authority, A Safe Haven, Gateway Foundation, Haymarket, Chicago Recovery Alliance, The Austin and Garfield/North Lawndale Voice newspapers, The Salvation Army, Fathers Who Care, Westside Community Stakeholders

**Where:** Salvation Army Freedom Center, 825 N. Christiana Ave., Chicago, IL 60651

**When:** Monday, May 6, 2019, 10 a.m.

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