

# News...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 21, 2020

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **Ford to Host Press Conference and Community Bike Ride for West Side and West Suburbs to Push Justice and Census**

**CHICAGO** – To bring attention to social justice and encourage census participation, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, has organized a free community bike ride scheduled at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 27, 2020 beginning at Columbus Park, located at 500 S. Central Avenue, Chicago.

Chicago is lagging other large cities in census response rates, with only about 55% of residents recorded compared with the national rate of 62%. The response rate among Hispanic and Black people in Chicago is about 51%, compared with 69.6% among whites and 64.1% among Asians, according to Marilyn Sanders, regional director for the U.S. Census in Chicago.

Prior to the 9 a.m. scheduled bike ride, Ford will host a press conference at 8 a.m. with elected officials, the Department of Human Services, Lyft, business leaders and local leaders to push the importance of filling out the census before the September 30 deadline.

“Participation in the census is critical to ensuring Illinois and local neighborhoods receive the resources and representation they deserve,” said Ford. “It’s quick and easy to fill out the census, and this bike ride and census day on the West Side of Chicago and the Near West Suburbs is an all hands on deck push for the hard to count population to be counted.”

“The census is an act of civic engagement that can impact and benefit communities for the next ten years. The more responses we get, the more federal money we receive for better hospitals, stronger schools, and safer roads and bridges. The next few weeks are so important and an opportunity to get everyone counted. I want to thank Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, for organizing a community bike ride and raising awareness on the importance of the census,” said IDHS Secretary Grace Hou.

The bike ride is anticipated to be 13 miles long and will travel through parts of Chicago, Oak Park, Forest Park, and Maywood. Lyft is expected to provide a limited number of free Divvy bikes for use, but residents can bring their own as well. The Chicago Police Department will ride in the event and provide vehicle escort.

Those interested in participating can sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunrise-ride-for-justice-tickets-115687752181>.

Attendees are asked to respect social distancing and masking guidelines. For more information, please contact RepFord@LaShawnFord.com.

**Who:** State Rep. La Shawn Ford, Congressman Danny K. Davis, state Sen. Don Harmon, state Sen. Kimberly Lightford, state Sen. Patricia Van Pelt, state Rep. Camille Lilly, state Rep. Emanuel “Chris” Welch, state Rep. Jawaharial Williams, state Rep. Lakesia Collins, Ald. Chris Taliaferro, Ald. Jason Ervin, Cook County Board Commissioner Brandon Johnson, Cook County Board Commissioner Dennis Deer, MWRD Commissioner Barbara McGowan, Broadview Mayor Katrina Thompson, Oak Park Village Clerk Vicki Scaman  
**What:** Press Conference and Community Bike Ride for Justice and Census Awareness  
**When:** Sunday, September 27, 2020; Press Conference 8 a.m.; Bike Ride 9 a.m.  
**Where:** Columbus Park, 500 S. Central Avenue, Chicago, IL