

# *Media Advisory...*

*from State Representative La Shawn K. Ford*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 01, 2019

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

217-782-5962

## **Ford & G. Flint Taylor Pre- Independence Day Press for the Freedom of Reformed Ex-Cons in Illinois**

**CHICAGO-** State Representative and community organizations will unite at a press conference to bring awareness to the men and women in Illinois impacted by the justice system. The press conference will be held at Malcom X College on July 3, 2019. July 3<sup>rd</sup> marks Reentry Day in Illinois. Reentry Day is a measure introduced and passed by Ford making July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the day before Independence Day, Re-Entry Day in Illinois.

“When people serve their time and pay their debt to society, we cannot have a system that predicts failure and a pathway back to prison. Like Migrants Ex-offenders living prison often face serious barriers, such as physical or mental health problems, no place to stay, or a lack of education or qualifications to hold a job,” said Ford. “If we want to end the improve the health and safety in communities and end the street violence in Chicago and across Illinois, we must open the gates to opportunities and tear down the racist wall for those reformed citizens with criminal records.”

We will call:

- Ending isolated confinement
- Ending prison gerrymandering
- Expungement for sealed records
- Better health care in Illinois’ prisons
- Right to vote for citizens in Illinois prison

The Reentry Day event will also hold a viewing and discussion of The Central Park Five first episode. The Central Park Five revolves around five teens wrongfully convicted of beating and raping a woman jogger in Central Park in 1989.

“So many people who have paid their debt to society still struggle to find ways to clear their names - struggling for total freedom and the opportunities they deserve,” said Ford. “It’s not a surprise that a high level of violence happens in communities where most people are released from Illinois’ state prisons. We can no longer shut American citizens out of the work force, education, and housing in Illinois. We all should see re-entry issues and reforms as priorities.”



**WHO:** State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, G. Flint Taylor, Uptown People's Law Center, Four Hundred Years, Brothers Standing Together, Ex-Cons For Community & Social Change, NAACP, Men & Women In Prison Ministries, NAEFI, Westside Justice Center, TASC, Westside Health Authority, Census 2020

**WHAT:** Reform Day Press Conference and Central Park Five Viewing & Discussion

**WHEN:** July 3, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** Malcolm X College: 1900 W. Jackson, Chicago, Illinois, 60612

For more information, please contact Ford's constituent service office at 217-782-5962 or email [Repford@lashawnford.com](mailto:Repford@lashawnford.com).

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