



# Press Release...

*from State Representative La Shawn K. Ford*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 25, 2019

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford  
773-378-5902

## **Ford Calls to Eliminate Gang Database System & Notify Citizens Placed On It**

**CHICAGO-** Illinois State Representative La Shawn K. Ford calls on CPD to eliminate the current gang database system, and start notifying individuals that are put onto the list. Chicago's Inspector General currently found Chicago's gang database to be riddled with errors.

"The City of Chicago needs to eliminate the current database system, and start notifying those put onto the gang database list," said Ford. "Officers can enter information on anyone who is arrested to include people who are stopped but not charged with a crime. This list is not only racist but also counterproductive."

In an article by MacArthur Justice Center, it reported that in addition to using this information to harass and falsely detain people, CPD provides this incorrect, inconsistent Database to third parties, including U.S. Immigrations and Customs (ICE).

"It should be a priority for people to know once they are on the list in case of inaccuracies," said Ford. "Citizens wrongfully put on the list are at risk of losing out on job opportunities and more. With all the inaccuracies with the database, citizens deserve for the current system to be eliminated. Everyone should have the right to know if they are wrongly included in the database."

ProPublica reported that the inspector general's office found still more striking and questionable data. Over the last decade, more than 134,000 people were identified as gang members after being arrested, usually for misdemeanors or petty infractions. But in 11% of the entries, no gang was listed, even though those individuals were supposedly included in the database because of gang associations.

Rep. Ford also plans to ask the Illinois Attorney General to look into whether it's a violation of a person's right to be added without notification. Rep. Ford is no stranger to the gang database flaws. Rep. Ford has previously worked to eliminate the gang database with legislation which can be seen in the link below:

[Bill Status of SB0275](#)

For more information, please contact Rep. Ford's district office at 773-378-5902 or email [repford@lashawnford.com](mailto:repford@lashawnford.com).

###