



August 14, 2018

## Operation Save Lives

At our great Organizing for Peace meeting on Sunday, August 12, we heard from many community organizations on the West and South sides that are working hard to Make Chicago Safer Again. Based on this meeting, I am announcing the formation of Operation Save Lives (OSL), and a community meeting. OSL is a team of local community members and organizations with the intent of taking charge of their communities. The coalition will organize local resources that can immediately help their local communities. OSL will also continue the work to lobby for resources from federal, state, city, and county governmental units.

This initiative is about organizing all the resources we have in our communities to create community-based solutions. We welcome federal help; however, we also need every state agency to live up to their mission. We need better and stronger partnerships with state agencies to bring more services to our communities.

The press conference and community meeting on August 15 focuses on community-based solutions. Topics that will be discussed at the meeting include: local job creation; entrepreneurship and small businesses; trade schools; effective violence interruption programs; more state agencies active in the communities; mental health services to deal with trauma; and a possible blanket pardon for nonviolent offenders.

We have to take the initiative to compile our community's resources, actively engage our communities and request more state funding directed to the communities to help create solutions that are true public-private partnerships.

We must show that we have the will to use smart people and smart ideas to decrease violence in our communities. Please contact me at [repford@lashawnford.com](mailto:repford@lashawnford.com) with your ideas. Let's pray together - and act together – to end violence.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford  
State Representative-Eighth District