



November 13, 2018

Our Next Mayor

The West Side Black Elected Officials, chaired by Alderman Emma Mitts, meets monthly to discuss how we as elected officials on the West Side can come together “to support efforts for the betterment of the West Side of Chicago”. The group includes Congressman Danny K. Davis, state senators and representatives, county board commissioners, water reclamation commissioners, aldermen, and others.

Chicago’s next mayor needs to be someone who understands the pressing issues faced by our city and its people, especially the issues faced by people living on the West and South Sides of our city. But, the West Side would do well to come together to back the candidate who will serve them the best. I believe that I know the major issues the city faces, and that we, together, can successfully work to find solutions to the issues, with fairness and justice for all.

My record in public service and as state representative for the Eighth district shows what I have worked hard for and where I have concentrated my energies. Here is a list of some of the issues that I have worked on over the last 11 years, and with the support and advocacy of so many, these have made a difference:

- Passed Bill Making Social Justice as Guiding Principle in Illinois House
- Passed African American Employment Plan
- Passed Illinois “Ban the Box” to Expand Ex-Offender Job Opportunities
- Passed Micro-Loan Program for Ex-offenders
- Passed Bill Expanding the Sealing of Records of Non-violent Ex-offenders
- Passed Bill Limiting Bail Bond Costs
- Passed Bill so at least 10% of State Contracts go to Small Businesses
- Passed Six Bills Expanding HIV Screening
- Passed Bill Lowering School Age from 7 to 6
- Passed Bill for Remedial Reading & Math Summer School Program
- Passed Bill Making it Easier to Use LINK card at Farmer’s Markets
- Passed Bill Naming Cicero Avenue as Nelson Mandela Road
- Passed Bill Naming Roosevelt Road as Muhammad Ali Road
- Passed Bills for Commissions on Responsible Fatherhood, Young Adult Employment, Violence Prevention, Child Care Reform, Firearm Public Awareness, Economic and Social Costs of Slavery
- Restored Funding for Child Care, Senior Meals, CEDA, LIHEAP, Lottery, Colleges
- Sponsor of 10 Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Family HEALTH CHALLENGE events for school kids
- Secured Grants for District Libraries, Parks and Fire Departments
- Emails Daily Job Listings to Thousands; Author of Weekly Newspaper Column

- Held Career & Health Fairs, & Town Hall Meetings on Education, Foreclosures, Concealed Carry, Black History Month, Violence, Elected School Board, Adoption & Foster Care, Second Chance Summits, Chicago Mayoral Recall, Child Support & License Reinstatement, Heroin Crisis

As I see it, the next mayor of Chicago should show that they are a mayor for ALL of Chicago. For much too long, resources and opportunities have been concentrated in a few areas, while the West and South Sides have been passed over. We have a great opportunity to move forward, to build on our greatness, to increase opportunities for all, and to have a mayor for ALL of the residents of Chicago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LSK', with a stylized flourish at the end.

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District