

Statement...

...from State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 7, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

Phone: 773-378-5902

Ford's Violence Prevention Task Force Legislation Signed into Law

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) issued the following statement after his legislation to create a violence prevention task force was signed into law by the governor on Wednesday:

"Violence has posed a threat to our community for far too long. This year, we have already seen hundreds of murders and must take immediate action to prevent these tragedies from continuing. Establishing this task force puts us in a better position to address safety concerns while trying to change a culture of violence.

"The Violence Prevention Task Force will take on the critical mission of providing new tools and opportunities for at-risk youth so we can prevent future violent crimes. The task force will help violence prevention groups, religious institutions and community groups provide safe havens for youth and adults while also training future community leaders. It is also charged with increasing awareness on local jobs, resources and opportunities so we can help people find productive alternatives to crime.

"We cannot become complacent and grow accustomed to the escalating violence in our neighborhoods. Even one murder is too many. We have to work together to bring lasting change and create a safer environment for families in our area. As the state representative of the Austin community and as a father, I cannot rest until peace is restored and our children are safe to play outside without the threat violence. I encourage residents to take advantage of the resources that this task force will bring to our communities and join our local efforts against violence."

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at 708-445-3673, 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902 or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at 217-782-5962.

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