

# Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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**For More Information:**

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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## Ford and Director Hasbrouck Begin the Work of Illinois' Violence Prevention Task Force

**CHICAGO** – Today, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford announces the start of meetings of the newly formed state of Illinois Violence Prevention Task Force, which was created as a result of a new Illinois law from legislation introduced and passed by Ford in the current General Assembly. Ford was appointed to be a member of the task force after writing and passing the legislation. The task force duties, as outlined in Public Act 098-0194, include: (1) increase awareness of resources, jobs, and opportunities to prevent violence in the State; (2) assist violence prevention groups, religious institutions, social lodges, community groups, block clubs, and other groups in providing safe havens for children, youth, young adults, and seniors; (3) create, develop, and implement recreational, social, and educational initiatives for at-risk youth; (4) train all interested persons to become community organizers, field organizers, neighborhood leaders, data coordinators, and event coordinators; and (5) assist in providing jobs, resources, and opportunities for at-risk youth so as to prevent them from committing crimes.

“I believe in the public health approach to violence, which sees violence as being preventable, not inevitable,” said Illinois Department of Public Health Director and Violence Prevention Task Force Chair, Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck. “Governor Quinn has appointed me to chair this task force to carry out his vision of curbing violence and stopping it before it starts. Preventing violence is not solely a punitive approach and building more jails. The task force will be working on comprehensive approaches to prevent violence by raising awareness of job opportunities in communities; helping faith based and community organizations whose mission is to curb violence; creating, developing and implementing recreational, social and education initiatives for at-risk youth, and developing a blueprint for action.” Dr. Hasbrouck has extensive public health experience in the area of violence prevention, being the co-author of the 2001 U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Youth Violence as part of his work at the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta.

“Dr. Hasbrouck is the best person to bring this all together,” said task force appointee state Senator Mattie Hunter. “I thank Dr. Hasbrouck and his team for embracing this task force and for leading a strong meeting today,” said Ford. “This is a great opportunity to look at the science of violence prevention, examine the current efforts and assets in Illinois, motivate untapped resources, and then disseminate the task force findings and coordinate efforts. Our goal is no less than decreasing the amount of violence that affects so many in all areas of the state,” said Ford.

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962), or visit [www.lashawnford.com](http://www.lashawnford.com).

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