

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Ford Proposes Changing Cicero Avenue to Mandela Road

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford announces that he plans to propose changing the name of the whole length of Illinois Route 50 to Mandela Road, now named Cicero Avenue in the City of Chicago and the suburbs, in honor of the late South African statesman, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and First President of the post-apartheid South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

“President Nelson Mandela is an inspiration to many and has been an example during our own lifetimes of the power of love, reconciliation, and non-violent resistance, following in the line of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,” said Ford. “It is a small gesture to change the name of a road from Cicero Avenue to Mandela Road, but it will help us to remember that even with Nelson Mandela’s death, we must continue to drive for excellence for the whole human race. Illinois Route 50 is the perfect state highway to be renamed, as it crosses so many different communities and will remind us of the almost miraculous work that Nelson Mandela undertook as he brought together people in his own country and all over the world to advance peace, democracy and opportunity. His work should be an inspiration for us to work for these same goals,” said Ford.

Illinois Route 50 is a north–south state road in northeastern Illinois, running from the junction with U.S. Route 45 in West Kankakee north to U.S. Route 41 in Skokie for a distance of 66 miles. In Chicago and the suburbs it is known as Cicero Avenue. Before this, Cicero Avenue was previously known as 48th Avenue, owing to its City of Chicago address of 4800 West (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois_Route_50).

“This street flows through the district I represent and many of my colleagues’ districts, and we can come together to send a message that Illinois stands for a strong road for justice. I look forward to working with the community and my colleagues to make this change a reality to honor Nelson Mandela,” 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.

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