

News...



From State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 31, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Ford Calls for Emergency Response Time Audit of Chicago Police Department

SPRINGFIELD, IL – To ensure that police respond to emergencies with equal urgency across Chicago, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, is calling on the city’s Inspector General to audit Chicago Police Department (CPD) response times and make recommendations on how to improve them in predominantly African-American and Hispanic neighborhoods.

“No matter where someone lives, they deserve a prompt response when they call 9-1-1 in an emergency situation,” said Ford. “Even a few minutes can mean the difference between life and death. With violent crime at extremely high levels in many communities, this audit should be performed as quickly as is possible so we can determine if more police need to be on the street, or if the department is placing a lower priority on minority neighborhoods.”

Ford recently filed House Resolution 569

(<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=569&GAID=13&GA=99&DocTypeID=HR&LegID=91604&SessionID=88>) after hearing many complaints from local taxpayers about their experience with unacceptably slow police response times in their neighborhoods. In addition, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois filed a lawsuit against the City of Chicago on behalf of the Central Austin Neighborhood Association. The ACLU and the Association believe response times to 9-1-1 calls in neighborhoods with high minority populations are slower than those in predominantly white areas.

“It is disturbing to hear that some parts of the city may not be receiving adequate attention by the police department,” Ford added. “If police response times are improved, especially in higher crime areas, it will deter offenders from committing criminal acts and will bring more stability to our neighborhoods.”

Ford’s House Resolution 569 awaits consideration before the full House.

For more information, contact one of Ford’s constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:7084453673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:7733785902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:2177825962), or visit www.lashawnford.com.

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