

Press Release...



From State Representative La Shawn K. Ford

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Ford's Resolution Calling for Audit of CPD Emergency Response Times Passes Committee

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Introduced by state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, a House Resolution calling for an audit of Chicago Police Department (CPD) response times has passed the House Judiciary-Criminal Committee and will now be considered by the full House of Representatives.

Ford introduced 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.

House Resolution 569 urges the Inspector General of the City of Chicago to conduct a performance audit of the Chicago Police Department to determine and assess police emergency response times in Chicago neighborhoods and communities and to make recommendations to improve response times in primarily African American and Hispanic neighborhoods and communities.

“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.”

“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.”

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.