

Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:
July 18, 2015

For More Information:
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Ford Hosts Celebration of Nelson Mandela's Birthday and 1 Year Anniversary of Naming of Mandela Road

CHICAGO – Hundreds are expected to join State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, and a host of community organizations to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday and the one year anniversary of the naming of Mandela Road, at 10 a.m. today at the corner of Chicago Avenue and Cicero Avenue (Mandela Road) in Chicago.

Nelson Mandela International Day was launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on July 18, via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly in 2009. It was inspired by a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices when he said that "it is in your hands now". The celebration is intended to be more than a celebration of Madiba's life and legacy, but a global movement to honor his life's work and act to change the world for the better.

To honor the late South African statesman, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and First President of the post-apartheid South Africa, Nelson Mandela, state Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, introduced a House Joint Resolution in 2014 designating the portion of Cicero Avenue from Grand Avenue to Roosevelt Road as Mandela Road. The resolution passed both the House and the Senate in unanimous, bipartisan votes. The dedication of the naming of Mandela Road occurred on July 18, 2014, Mandela's birthday.

"With the crime and violence high in the Austin community, we will celebrate President Nelson Mandela's birthday and the 1st Anniversary of the naming of Mandela Road with a day of service," said Ford. Celebration activities include youth marching bands, dancing, and a push to stop the violence on the West Side of Chicago. The rededication of the recently relocated "The Chieftain" statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be part of the festivities. Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart's SWAP team, Com ED, and a host of community organization will clean litter and plant flowers on Mandela Road.

"Today is an International Day of Service honoring President Mandela, and we want to join the movement of change-makers and do our part to in the spirit of Madiba and his vision to spread social justice and freedom for all - this is our chance to become a part of a continuous global movement for good," said Ford. "Let us all emulate the servant leader we loved by becoming servant leaders ourselves. By becoming a Mandela Day change-maker and doing something that effects positive change every day, we can show that actions speak louder than words."

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Ford/Mandela Road Celebration p. 2/con't.

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.

Who:	State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford; Congressman Danny K. Davis; Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart's SWAP Team; Aldermen Mitts, Ervin and Scott; Westside Health Authority; WRC; Student Marching Bands, Com Ed, and More
What:	Celebration of President Nelson Mandela's Birthday, the 1st Year Anniversary of the Naming of Mandela Road, and the Rededication of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, "The Chieftain" statue
When:	Saturday, July 18, 2015, 10 a.m.
Where:	4800 W. Chicago Avenue at Cicero Ave (Mandela Road), Chicago

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