



Media Advisory...

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Chair of Illinois House Firearm Public Awareness Task Force to Hold Hearing on the Effects of Gun Violence

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, and fellow members of the Firearm Public Awareness Task Force will hold their first meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at noon in the sixth-floor committee room of the Michael A. Bilandic Building, located at 160 N. LaSalle St. in Chicago.

“Gun violence has devastated families, businesses, and communities across Illinois, especially those living in the city's West Side and South Side neighborhoods,” Ford said. “There is no single solution to ending senseless gun violence, and it is critical that we examine the root causes of this issue and work together to find ways to make Illinois safer.”

Ford was named the chair of the bipartisan task force, which will review gun violence data throughout the state and submit a report with gun safety recommendations to the General Assembly. The task force is made up of 12 members of the House Democratic Caucus and 12 members of the House Republican Caucus.

The task force's first hearing will examine the effects of gun violence and associated trauma on the health and wellbeing of children, families, communities, and businesses. Wednesday's testimony will consist of four panels made up of public health officials, educators, business stakeholders, behavioral health specialists, and parents. Future hearings will cover topics including public safety, the cash bail bond system and sentencing, current firearm laws in Illinois, and proposed legislation.

“It is important that we hear from those who are directly impacted by gun violence and experts who understand the trauma that gun violence can cause,” Ford said. “By hearing firsthand about how gun violence affects communities, we can better address their needs and help prevent future tragedies from occurring.”

Who:	State Rep. LaShawn K. Ford
What:	Firearm Public Awareness Task Force Hearing
Where:	Michael A. Bilandic Building Committee Room, Sixth Floor 160 N. LaSalle St. Chicago, IL 60601
When:	Wednesday, Oct. 16 Noon

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