

# Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **Ford & American Red Cross Co-host Chicago Blood Drive**

**CHICAGO-** State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) will be co-hosting the Dr. Charles Drew Annual Blood Drive in partnership with the American Red Cross. The event will be held at the American Red Cross – Rauner Center at 2200 W. Harrison St. in Chicago, Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you were unable to make an appointment online, walk-ins will be welcomed. There are about 100,000 people in the United States with sickle cell disease. 90 percent of those people are from African descent. A close blood type match is essential and is found in donors of the same race or similar ethnic.

“I plan on donating blood for this cause, and I encourage everyone to bring a friend, relative or co-worker to donate blood as well,” said Ford. “All blood donor support will help in saving sickle cell patients in our community. One donation can save approximately three lives, which is a huge blessing for those that need it. blood banks are in need of blood; the pandemic and the violence in the Chicago land area have really drained the blood supply. I urge people to get the word out and even donate if they can.”

All donations are tested for the sickle cell trait and for Covid-19 antibodies. Those that donate will get their results in 1 to 2 weeks.

**WHO:** State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, American Red Cross, Community Blood Donors

**WHAT:** Dr. Charles Drew Annual Blood Drive

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** American Red Cross – Rauner Center at 2200 W. Harrison St, CH, IL 60612

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