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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. Ford Urges Mayors to Work with County and State Law Enforcement to Target High-Crime Neighborhoods

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Because so much of a city's crime often occurs in relatively small geographic areas, state Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) has filed a House Resolution urging urban mayors to work with county and state law enforcement agencies to target resources to these areas, and to seek additional federal funding to provide more law enforcement officers in high-crime zones.

"We know that violent crime, especially in Chicago, is concentrated in geographically small areas of the city, and that presents an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to work together to target these areas," Ford said. "Crime prevention efforts should be an all-hands-on-deck effort, with every tax-funded law enforcement agency working together to deter crime for safer communities."

According to the latest intelligence from a top federal law enforcement agency in Chicago, there are at least 100,000 gang members distributed among 75 to 100 street gangs in Chicago and the suburbs; unfortunately, this means that street gang membership is at least twice as numerous as Chicago and suburban police departments combined.

"We cannot sit on these facts and not fight to get help for our law enforcement personnel," Ford added.

Ford's House Resolution 301 urges the Governor, each mayor of a municipality with a high-crime area, and the sheriff of the county in which that municipality is located to commit to the coordination of the municipal police force, the Department of State Police, and the sheriff's office to help to bring an end to rampant criminal activity in that municipality's high-crime areas. The resolution cites a 2009 Chicago Police Department analysis which found that all shootings and homicides happened in geographic areas that make up just 8.5% of the city as a whole.

Recognizing that almost all municipalities in Illinois are struggling to fund their existing law enforcement resources, Ford's resolution further urges elected officials to ask Congress to allocate new resources, or reallocate existing resources, to help support joint efforts between law enforcement agencies.

For more information, call Ford's constituent service office at (773) 378-5902.

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