



October 17, 2018

Another Young Person Dies in Austin – And We Have to Solve More Murder Cases

We have lost of another young man on the West Side of Chicago. Last Saturday, 15 year old Anton Shaw was shot and unfortunately died on the 1100 block of North Long Avenue. He was staying with his grandmother in Austin and was a freshman at Foreman College and Career Academy in Portage Park. The death of Anton has had a huge impact on our community, his friends, his school, and his family. There are still no apparent leads regarding who shot and killed Anton. The clearance rate of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) is so bad that people are literally getting away with murder in Chicago.

According to thecrimereport.org, Chicago's homicide clearance rate – the percentage of cases in which police arrest or identify a suspect – fell from 17.1 in 2017 to 15.4 in the first six months of 2018. If that rate holds through year's end, it would be the sixth consecutive annual decline. We must find trust in one another to help solve murders. Our police must have the technology, tools and personnel to solve cases. At the same time, we need reforms that produce stable working relationships between our police and the people they are sworn to protect. We need reforms that are good for the community as well as for the police serving on our streets.

We must be outraged enough to speak out and demand justice for Anton. I'm confident that 15th District Police Commander Ernest Cato III will put forth all necessary resources to catch the killer of Anton and bring them to justice. We need to work harder to shut off the flow of guns into our West Side and South Side communities.

We also must demand that anyone who has been affected by Anton's untimely death be able to receive all of the support and counseling that they need to move through this very difficult time. We need to help Anton's family and all families who are suffering from the trauma and ravages of gun and other forms of violence – we need responsive and sensitive counseling and mental health care that really works, just as this care is being provided in other emergency situations like school shootings in other parts of the country.

In the name of Anton Shaw, we must continue the fight for justice, transparency, accountability, counselling and mental health care, and more opportunities for people to be successful in vibrant communities all over the city, especially rebuilding the South and West Sides of Chicago. Together as one city – North, South, West and East – let's show our love for Chicago and come together as brothers and sisters to heal and grow and rebuild one Chicago.

Sincerely,

La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District