



# Press Release

*From State Representative and Chicago Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Ford Pushes to End Doubling of Parking Fines and Fees**

State Representative and Chicago Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, says Chicagoans are paying too hefty a price for parking tickets, sticker violations, and fines. Reforms are needed now to bring fairness to Chicago's policy on the doubling of parking tickets and fines.

"The current system is an attack on Chicago's families," says Ford. "The penalty for an expired parking meter is excessive. It's like the punishment doesn't fit the crime. We must end the practice of doubling a fine for paying a ticket late. If a person can't afford to pay \$100, how can he/she pay \$200?"

Ford is not alone in his assessment that the system is broken, attacking the city's low-income, Black and Latino communities the hardest. Research revealed in an August 2018 story on Chicago's predatory tickets and fines by The Chicago Reporter confirms this. In the story, surveys and research conducted independently by the Community Organizing and Family Issues, Chicago Jobs Council, The Woodstock Institute, and WBEZ/ProPublica Illinois show commonalities and that there is a clear pattern of excessive ticketing. Late fees typically are twice as high in lower-income communities and nearly 30 percent higher in minority neighborhoods.

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## Ford Pushes to End Doubling of Parking Fees and Fines / Add One

Ford says reforms are needed to help change these attacks on families in Chicago. “Government protects consumers from excessive late fees. No lender, creditor, or landlord is allowed to double a debt for late payments,” adds Ford. “As mayor, I plan to work with City Council to end these predatory policies that drive people deeper into poverty. Hardworking Chicagoans struggling to make ends meet should not be at risk of losing vehicles worth thousands of dollars for inability to pay a \$50 parking ticket.”

Transparency, equity and accountability are just a few of the critical solutions Ford plans to bring to City Hall in his run for mayor of Chicago. Other areas of focus of his mayoral platform include: Equity in Education; Inclusive Economy; Safer Communities; and Health & Quality of Life. For more details on Ford’s full policy issues, visit [www.FordforChicago.com](http://www.FordforChicago.com).

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