



Press Release

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ADORN Lewis-Mitchell
Mobile: 312-318-9696
ADORN@fordforchicago.com

**Affordable Housing, Abandoned Buildings, Vacant Lots, and Homeless Community
At Forefront of Housing Issues Addressed by State Representative and Mayoral
Candidate La Shawn K. Ford**

IHDA to Honor Ford's Accomplishments at Conference on Election Night

Everyone knows that the Chicago housing crisis has existed for far too long. In 2017, the Cook County Land Bank Authority had more than 4,500 vacant properties for sale. It reported the sale of 35,457 parcels through the Cook County Scavenger Sale in December 2015. According to a May 2018 annual survey by the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, 80,384 Chicagoans were homeless in 2016. And, in 2018, Chicago's Affordable Housing Ordinance, designed to increase the number of affordable housing units for communities most at-risk, fell terribly short of its trajectory to create 1,200 units by 2020.

Yet, one mayoral candidate has done more than talk about the issue. State Representative and Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford has been on the forefront of housing reform in Chicago and throughout the state of Illinois since being elected to the Illinois General Assembly 12 years ago.

During this time, Ford has advocated for and introduced key legislation to make housing more affordable as well as legislation to eliminate abandoned buildings and vacant lots on the South and West Sides of Chicago. This hands-on experience and proven track record sets him apart from other candidates.

“As mayor of Chicago, I will use my experience and relationships with the Illinois Housing Development Authority to create more affordable housing and eliminate the blight on the South and West sides of Chicago,” says Ford.

Ford will be honored by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) on Tuesday, Feb. 26, election night, during its annual conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, West Tower/Gold Level, 151 E. Wacker Dr. Ford will be presented with the Arthur L. Turner Leadership Award at 4:15 p.m. The awards ceremony will run from 4:15-4:45 p.m.

The event is part of IHDA’s series of Affordable Housing Champions Awards created to thank its partners for developments, initiatives or accomplishments that improve the quality of life for Illinois residents and communities. It is being presented to Ford because of his commitment to community revitalization and affordable housing.

State Representative and Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford’s successful, progressive track record of introducing and championing significant housing legislation ranges from helping residents secure housing to preventing foreclosures. Specifically, he:

- Introduced legislation that became law providing that a defaulting homeowner be notified by mail that they have the right to remain in their home for 30 days after the entry of the order of possession (Public Act 095-0826)
- Introduced legislation that became law requiring the name and contact information of the holder of foreclosed property be recorded and available to the public (Public Act 096-0110)
- Introduced legislation that became law making it illegal for condo associations to disapprove a sale of a condo unit if the buyer uses financing guaranteed by the FHA (Public Act 096-0228)
- Introduced legislation that became law increasing the penalties for anyone falsely posed as a landlord and obtaining rent or security deposits (Public Act 096-0496)
- In November 2008, introduced and passed House Resolution 1276 (96th GA) urging Congress to enact a 2-year moratorium on interest rate reset increases under sub-prime adjustable rate mortgage home loans
- Introduced resolution which was adopted urging the U.S. Congress to help prevent residential foreclosures (97th GA – HR 0045)
- Formed a Foreclosure Prevention Task Force for the West Side of Chicago and western suburbs, July 2011 La Shawn K. Ford Legislative and Community

- Sponsored Foreclosure Town Hall Meeting by being the Chair of Congressman Danny K. Davis' Advisory Committee on Foreclosures
- Moderator of Summit on the Foreclosure Crisis at Congressman Danny K. Davis' State of the District Meeting
- Sponsor of Homeowner Outreach Days, Malcolm X College
- Is a leader in advocating for funding for affordable housing in Illinois

Housing disparity and homelessness are just a few of the many issues 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; Health & Quality of Life; and Transparency, Equity & Accountability. For more details on Ford's full policy issues, visit www.FordforChicago.com.

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