

Media Advisory - August 7, 2010

# Reps. Ford, Thapedi and Coalitions Stand to Urge Gov. Quinn for Immediate State Relief

**CHICAGO, IL**— Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago), Representative André Thapedi (D-Chicago), and a coalition of community organizations have joined together to call on Governor Quinn to provide immediate relief to flood victims.

“We praise Gov. Quinn for his immediate attention to the recent flood on July 24<sup>th</sup> which devastated many families in Illinois, said Rep. Ford. “Gov. Quinn's request and ongoing push for FEMA’s assistance for families hit by the recent flood is responsible. We support and urge Gov. Quinn to not only wait for the action of FEMA but to help Illinois's families now!”

“As a result of the flood, many families have lost everything, and they cannot continue to wait for our region to be declared a disaster area,” Ford said. “These are the moments when Government must be actively engaged to help families in need. As was provided to two Western suburbs after the flood, I urge Governor Quinn to extend assistance to flood victims in areas hit the hardest.”

“Many of our seniors in Austin continue to be plagued with stagnant water and mold in their basements,” said Jacqueline Reed, President and CEO of the Westside Health Authority. “Face masks and other supplies are needed, while we are mobilizing neighbors and ‘Put Illinois to Work’ employees to clean the debris. Many remain homeless as a result of this flood; the need is urgent.”

“There are a lot of things we can do to help people in addition to receiving FEMA dollars,” said Bob Vondrasek, of the South Austin Coalition Community Council (SACCC). “We can utilize people, block clubs, and government agencies to help clean up basements and remove molded walls and debris from alleyways. Every day that we don’t deal with this issue will cause more health problems for our children, adults and seniors.”

The South Side of Chicago has also suffered from the flood. “The estimated cost of damage in my District is not fully calculable at this time,” said André Thapedi, state Representative, 32<sup>nd</sup> District. “I know that the processes to obtain relief from FEMA and IEMA are long and complicated ones, and I join state Rep. Ford and the coalition to encourage both the Legislative and Executive branches of State government to immediately address the need for relief and financial assistance in our Districts.”

“My house is damaged, and I am now homeless,” said Janda Hopkins. “My neighbor who lives next door has similar flood damage, and has a respiratory disease. We need the City, State, and Federal Government to declare this a disaster area.”

<b>What:</b>	Press Conference on Relief for Flood Victims
<b>Who:</b>	State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, 8 <sup>th</sup> District State Representative Andre Thapedi, 32 <sup>nd</sup> District The Westside Health Authority South Austin Coalition Community Council and others
<b>When:</b>	Sunday, August 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2010 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
<b>Where:</b>	5170 W. Wabansia, Chicago, IL. 60639
<b>Questions:</b>	Contact Rep. Ford at 773-378-5902

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