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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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For More Information:
State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford
(773) 378-5902

Ford Announces African American Employment Report

Also Introduces Resolution asking for a Commission to Confront Black Economic Problems

Chicago – Following up on legislation which he introduced that became law which mandates an annual report on African American employment in state government, State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) announces the African American Employment Report for 2012. The Report can be found at: <http://www.lashawnford.com/AfricanAmericanPlan2012.pdf>.

Legislation introduced by Ford became Public Act 096-1341 when it was signed by the Governor on July 27, 2010, creating the African American Employment Plan Act, mandating the Department of Central Management Services (CMS), in collaboration with the African American Employment Plan (AFAEP) Advisory Council, to submit to the Illinois General Assembly an annual report on African American Employment in the state of Illinois by February 1st of each year. The recently released report represents data on African American employment throughout state government for the reporting period of January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012. The African American Employment Plan is part of a plan to increase diversity in the state's workforce, which includes the recruiting, hiring, training, retention and promotion of African American employees.

Unemployment is a lingering problem for the economy as a whole but is much worse for blacks: according to December 2012 data from the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the unemployment rate for blacks in Illinois was 16.0% (18.1% for black men), compared to 7.7% for whites and 8.9% for all workers. Furthermore, African Americans make up 14.8% of the population of Illinois, but make up a much smaller percentage of the employees for certain agencies in state government. For example, there are only 197 blacks out of 2418 (8.15%) employees in Transportation, only 147 blacks out of 1641 (8.96%) employees in Central Management Services, and only 1464 blacks out of 11,674 (12.54%) employees in Corrections.

“We must do all we can in Illinois to extend job opportunities to all qualified persons for jobs in state government. Illinois must continue to be transparent about the degree of diversity in state government, and work to actually increase opportunities when we find disparities in our workforce,” said Ford.

Earlier this month, with an urgency that much more needs to be done, Ford introduced a House resolution (HR0048), which urges the Governor to create a commission to confront the economic problems that still plague African-American communities. Details for House Resolution 48 are at: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HR&DocNum=48&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=71777>.

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at 708-445-3673, 5104 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at 773-378-5902 or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at 217-782-5962. More information is found at www.lashawnford.com.

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