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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. Ford to Host National Black Business Month Event Saturday, Aug. 1

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, will help kick off National Black Business Month by recognizing and joining local leaders and Black business organizations at an event scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Society Night Club, located at 2201 W. Walnut St. in Chicago.

"We want to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Webb Evans and our many local Black business organizations and entrepreneurs who work hard to uplift our Black community by supporting each other," Ford said. "This year has illustrated the importance of Black Americans working together to build a solid economic foundation that maximizes shared economic interests and invests in the people of our community. Chicago is home to many fantastic small business owners, and it's important we recognize and support them."

This year marks the 26th anniversary of Black Business Month, which encourages residents to consider their purchasing decisions and Buy Black, Love Black, Give Black. The Aug. 1 event will honor and recognize Craig Hodges, Mickey Johnson, Bobby Simmons and a number of other sports figures in business.

Recognized organizations will include Austin Chamber of Commerce, TheBlackMall.com, Black Wall Street Districts, Black Star Project, Austin African American Business Network Association, 79th Street Corridor Business Association, Sib's Breakfast Club, Global Institute, Garfield Park Chamber of Commerce, Entrepreneur Success Program, BopBiz Center, the Library and Cultural Gallery, Black Chicago Eats and Bean Soup Times.

Ford will be joined in hosting the event by Chatham Business Association, Bobby Simmons, COAL-Coalition of African American Leaders, UBAPA-United Black American Progress Association, Blacknificent Mile 79th Street Corridor and Chicago Playground Legends.

For more information, please contact <u>RepFord@LaShawnFord.com</u>.

What: National Black Business Month When: Saturday, Aug. 1; 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Where: Society Night Club; 2201 W. Walnut St., Chicago