

Press Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:
June 17, 2020

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REP. FORD, DOCTORS BALARK & CLARK DISCUSS THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND BLACK PEOPLE

CHICAGO- State Representative La Shawn K. Ford (D-CH) will be joined by a panel of two of Chicago's black female medical doctors. Rep. Ford will host prominently known doctors to offer medical advice on COVID-19 to help keep people safe in Illinois. Doctors Kimbra Bell Balark and Crystal T. Clack will go live with Rep. Ford to give expert advice on the pandemic and take questions from the community and press.

The Novel Coronavirus is having a deadly impact on minorities, according to the Center for Disease Control, pre-existing conditions and poor access to healthcare have made minorities the hardest hit by the current pandemic.

Dr. Kimbra Bell Balark is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Northwestern University Medical school and on staff at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She is a board certified Internal Medicine physician. She serves on the Northwestern Memorial Healthcare Corporations Quality Equity Committee and was recently appointed to the Illinois' Health Equity Taskforce. Dr. Bell has an extensive background in community medicine and served as medical director of a federally qualified health center in downtown Chicago from 2001-2008. She has practiced internal medicine for over 15 years with a special interest in diabetes and hypertension. Dr. Bell obtained her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville Tennessee. Dr. Bell has participated in various media opportunities including Ebony Magazine, Northwest Indiana Times, The Chicago Tribune, and The Daily Southtown. In addition, she has been featured on various local news stations including ABC, NMC and Fox news. She was named as one of Chicago's Top Physicians in the March, 2006 issue of the Chicago Hospital News Healthcare Newspaper

Dr. Crystal T. Clark is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health Sciences at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She is board-certified in adult psychiatry with a specialty focus in mood and anxiety disorders and is on staff at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She is internationally recognized for her research and expertise in the treatment of women's mental health. She serves as a Director of advanced training in women's mental health and as the Associate Program Director for general adult psychiatry residency training. Dr. Clark received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Northwestern University and her Master of Science and Doctor of Medicine from the University of Louisville. She completed her psychiatry training at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Clark has served as an expert on mental health topics such as suicide, medication, substance use, and emotional wellness in the pandemic and civil unrest for media outlets including National Public Radio (NPR), New York Times, ABC 7, CBS Chicago, and Chicago Tonight.

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WHO: State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, Dr. Kimbra Bell Balark, Dr. Crystal T. Clark

WHAT: A Discussion About COVID-19 & African American Communities

WHERE: Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91383001308>

Meeting ID: 913 8300 1308

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,91383001308# US (Chicago)

WHEN: Saturday, June 18, 2020 @ 11:00 a.m.

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