

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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For More Information:

State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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Ford Named as One of The Chicago Defender 2015 Men of Excellence

CHICAGO – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, has been named as a Chicago Defender Men of Excellence 2015 Honoree. The Chicago Defender Men of Excellence Award celebrates and honors local African-American executives or business owners who have shown proven success within their chosen professions or industries as positive role models whose contributions encourage others, as well as being active in community service or within organizations. To be honored at the Induction Ceremony on January 16, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago, Ford was nominated for his work as State Representative of the Eighth District of Illinois and his role as a small business owner of Ford Desired Real Estate.

Currently Chairman of the Small Business Empowerment & Workforce Development and Restorative Justice Committees, Ford has had significant success passing legislation which has become law in Illinois in areas as diverse as: Creation of the African American Employment Plan Act; Expansion of sealing of criminal records for certain Class 3 and 4 non-violent offenses; Expansion of HIV screening; Protecting the privacy of students who have HIV; Helping people use their LINK cards at farmers' markets; Lowering the compulsory school age to 6 years; Established a micro-loan program for qualified ex-offenders who are establishing their own businesses; Made law that not less than 10% of state contracts be awarded to small businesses; Established the Small Business Empowerment & Workforce Development Task Force; Established the Violence Prevention Task Force; Established Right to Privacy in the Workplace Act; Established Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act; Established the Council on Responsible Fatherhood; and passing a Resolution urging Congress to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to make all its provisions permanent, among many others. Ford's State Employment Application Act (Ban the Box) passed both Houses in a previous General Assembly, and the intent of the law has been established by the governor by Administrative Order.

Rep. Ford's office sends out job listings daily to thousands of people. He has received many awards, including Archdiocese of Chicago "Christifideles" and "Augustus Tolton" awards; Safer Foundation Carre Visionary Award; Illinois Farm Bureau Activator Friend of Agriculture award; One of Chicago's Top 40 Game Changers by the Urban Business Roundtable; and Small Business Advocate Award by Small Business Advocacy Council. Ford was a delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention that renominated Barack Obama to continue as President of the United States. He is the founding Committee Chairman of Illinois State Troop 606 of the Boy Scouts on the West Side of Chicago. In 2014, Ford was elected Community Representative on the Local School Council (LSC) of George Rogers Clark Elementary School. He serves on many Boards of Directors, including Austin Chamber of Commerce, Advisory Board for a Children's Museum in Austin, Peace Corner, Loretto Hospital, Fathers Who Care, the External Advisory Board for Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children, and the Board of Trustees of West Suburban Medical Center.

For more information, contact one of Ford's constituent service offices: 816 S. Oak Park Avenue in Oak Park at [708-445-3673](tel:708-445-3673), 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago at [773-378-5902](tel:773-378-5902) or in the Stratton Office Building in Springfield at [217-782-5962](tel:217-782-5962) or visit www.lashawnford.com.