

Press Release...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

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FORD CALLS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WEST SIDE PROPOSED OBAMA LIBRARY SITE

SPRINGFIELD, IL - Illinois State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, has made the following comments in response to the announcement that the Barack Obama Presidential Center – which will include the library, museum, as well as office and activity space for the Barack Obama Foundation – will be located on Chicago’s South Side:

“After more than 14 months of evaluation by the Obama Foundation of more than 12 potential sites for the site of President Obama's Library, the wait is over. Illinois will soon be the home of two presidential libraries - one in Springfield for Illinois' favorite son President Abraham Lincoln, and now one in Chicago for Illinois' other favorite son, President Barack H. Obama.

“The \$500 million project on the South Side will benefit the entire state of Illinois, and the South Side should be proud for winning the bid.

“The competitive bid lead by UIC and many others on the West Side of Chicago was a bold and audacious move - it exposed a dark and largely forgotten part of the city of Chicago. Since we now know that the West Side did not win the bid for the presidential library, the city and the state should move on to option 2. The 23 vacant acres at Roosevelt and Kostner on Chicago's West Side is now prime vetted land that was a finalist but just lost its bid to be the site of the Obama Presidential Library. Our President and many others are on notice about the available open space on the West Side of Chicago and the need to bring some presidential power to the West Side.

“Chicago, let's show the world that we have a vision for the entire city, that every community in Chicago is a winner, and that hard work pays off.”

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.