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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

For Immediate Release:

December 8, 2009

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Ford Hosts Successful Town Hall Meeting Doubleheader; Teams Up with Local and State Agencies

CHICAGO – On Friday, State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) hosted a two-part town hall meeting at the Columbus Park Refectory to provide local residents with an opportunity to share their thoughts and insights on important issues facing the state and local community. Rep. Ford was joined by State Sen. Kimberly Lightford (D-Maywood), Oak Park Village President David Pope and Oak Park trustees, as well as representatives from Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) and several local nonprofit organizations.

“I would like to thank IDOT Secretary Hannig for providing very important information on Phase One of the Eisenhower Expansion Project and on IDOT’s procurement process,” Ford said. “This was the first forum of its kind that has been held on the Eisenhower Expansion that specifically included residents from Oak Park, the West Side of Chicago and surrounding communities. I appreciate the efforts that IDOT and others put forth to provide information about the project and potential job opportunities.”

The first half of the town hall meeting featured a presentation and exhibits by representatives from IDOT on the Eisenhower Expansion project and drew a crowd of 125 people. The second half of the forum was equally well-attended and raised several important issues, including the need for directing more state resources to smaller local agencies that serve people in need; increasing opportunities for minorities in the workforce; and the need for more stores that sell healthy foods. “Hearing the input of my constituents at forums like this helps me to do a better job representing the needs and interests of the people of the Eighth District,” said Ford.

During the second half of the town hall meeting, several nonprofit organizations were also on hand to inform resident about their services. These organizations included Prevention Partnership, South Austin Community Council, Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, and the Austin Community Coalition on Under-aged Drinking.

For more information, call 773-378-5902, or visit www.lashawnford.com.

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