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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Rep. La Shawn K. Ford Advocates for Resources for Homeowners at Risk of Losing Their Homes

Legislator announces formation of Foreclosure Prevention Task Force

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) announced today that he has formed a Foreclosure Prevention Task Force including HUD-approved housing counseling agencies serving the West Cook County-Austin communities.

The task force includes collaborating counseling agencies and community action groups who have agreed to work together to address foreclosure prevention and intervention counseling gaps. Participating agencies include: Bethel New Life, West Cook County Housing Resource Center, Voice of Community Ministerial Association (VOCMA), Proviso-Leyden Council for Community Action (PLCCA), South Austin Coalition Community Council (SACCC), and the Westside Ministers' Coalition (WMC). The Task Force will focus on:

- Developing a cross-referral and tracking system between agencies and borrowers seeking foreclosure intervention/prevention counseling, maximizing effectiveness and efficiency of response; and
- Expanding counseling services into communities with counseling service gaps.

The Monroe Foundation is working with Rep. Ford to help organize the task force, and Otis Monroe stated: "The Community Reinvestment Organizing Project (COP) of the Monroe Foundation supports this bold leadership role that Rep. Ford has taken on by forming a task force of counseling and housing action groups to work with him to address foreclosure needs of distressed homeowners in West Cook County and Austin communities, and close gap in resources these groups need to help keep families in their homes, and communities stable."

Phyllis Logan, VP of Operations for VOCMA, added: "VOCMA, a HUD-Local Housing Counseling Agency serving all of Cook County is pleased to participate in a collaborative effort with State Representative La Shawn K. Ford in his continued efforts to help families and homeowners. The added value of forming a Foreclosure Task Force, under State Representative Ford, speaks highly of

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his concerns for the many borrowers facing imminent foreclosure. We feel this task force will help many families who have been scammed by predators who prey on those in need and often rob them of hard-earned income. The task force is needed to bring advocates and expert housing counselors to the table to discuss how we can better serve our communities."

"Bethel New Life is excited to be a part of the collaborative formed by Rep. Ford," said Allison Schuller. "Our neighborhoods need these services more than ever, and we think this approach will allow us to help the most people. We look forward to working with agencies in Austin and West Cook County to address foreclosure in our communities. "

"The Illinois Housing Development Authority looks forward to working with Rep. La Shawn Ford and hearing his constructive ideas as we strive to address the negative impact of foreclosures, and provide homeowners with the resources they need to keep their homes," said Mary R. Kenney, IHDA executive director.

Rep. Ford stated: "With the formation of this Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, we can assist people who are working to avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. I am excited that this task force has formed to answer the call. Many in our communities have been in their homes for a long time and need access to the kind of resources this task force offers to stay in their homes, to stabilize their families and our neighborhoods."

In the third quarter of 2010, Illinois posted the nation's fourth largest foreclosure activity total, with 47,802 properties receiving foreclosure filings, according to RealtyTrac. In May, Rep. Ford co-sponsored SJR30, the Comprehensive Housing Planning Act, creating a State Housing Task Force, which is charged with creating a comprehensive and unified policy for the allocation of resources for affordable housing and supportive services for historically underserved populations throughout the State. Ford's local task force stands ready to work with the Illinois Housing Development Authority as a local advisor to the State Task Force to help meet the goals of SJR30.

For more information about the Foreclosure Prevention Task Force, contact Rep. Ford's constituent service office at 773-378-5902 or email foreclosureprevention@lashawnford.com.

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