



Press Release

From State Representative and Chicago Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2019

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

ADORN Lewis-Mitchell
Mobile: 312-318-9696
ADORN@fordforchicago.com

Three-Year Anniversary of Reparations Legislation Introduced By State Representative and Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford Re-ignites Sense of Urgency

Long before 2020 presidential candidates and others talked about it, State Representative and Mayoral Candidate La Shawn K. Ford made reparations for Black Americans closer to a reality in Illinois.

Introduced during Black History Month in 2016 by Ford, House Resolution 1011 specifically requested that President Barack Obama commission a study to detail the economic impact of the slave trade and the use of slave labor; and how emancipation, while freeing slaves of their literal bond and ending an immortal practice, did not guarantee equality in education, employment, housing, and access to quality, affordable healthcare; that this study also include an analysis for how reparations for past harms have benefitted the ethnic groups that have received them during the course of American history.

The legislation was co-sponsored by representatives Monique D. Davis, Mary Flowers, Marcus Evans Jr., Litesa Wallace, and Camille Lilly. The historic bipartisan vote on June 30, 2016 produced the first modern-day state legislation that seeks to address the age-old question of reparations for the descendants of African slaves.

In 2017, Ford also passed a resolution calling for the 45th U.S. president to commission a similar, more detailed study of reparations for slavery. Ironically, it was House Resolution 0045.

“Many years ago, it was promised to slaves and the descendants of slaves that they would be repaid not only for the forced labor that helped build this country to its current greatness, but for the terror that was slavery,” said Ford.

The Chicago chapter of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA) has been at the forefront of this issue and recently held a reparations awareness event themed “400 Years of Terror: A Debt Still Owed” in partnership with Chicago State University. The event featured educator William Sandy Darity Jr., Arts and Sciences Professor of Public Policy in the Sanford School at Duke University and the Cary C. Boshamer Professor of Economics and Sociology at the University of North Carolina.

“As several public figures around the country are now talking about reparations, Rep. La Shawn Ford is no stranger or new-comer to this issue. He has the singular distinction of introducing and passing a resolution calling on the president of the United States to create a Reparations Commission – making Illinois the first and only state to do so,” said N’COBRA national co-chair Kamm Howard. “Ford’s commitment and legislative leadership for reparations is proven and far surpasses all contenders.”

To read more about Ford’s mayoral platform on the issues of Equity in Education; Inclusive Economy; Safer Communities; Health & Quality of Life; and Transparency, Equity & Accountability, visit www.FordforChicago.com.

###