



For Immediate Release
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**FIVE TIME NBA CHAMPION RON HARPER NAMED
GRAND MARSHALL OF 2017 CIRCLE CITY CLASSIC® PARADE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Black Expo, Inc. has named five time NBA Champion Ron Harper as the grand marshal of this year's Circle City Classic Parade®. This year's parade will take place on Saturday, September 23 at 10 AM beginning at North and Pennsylvania Streets. It will be videotape delayed on local station Channel 40, later that day before the Classic game and streamed live via on the Circle City Classic website site.

Bring your chair for the best seat on the block. Nearly 100,000 spectators gather each year to witness the pageantry, celebrities, floats and marching bands as they wind their way through the streets of Indianapolis. Parade grand marshals have included renowned celebrities such as Jerry Rice, Kelly Rowland, Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, Soulfood's Boris Kodjoe and Grammy Award-winning gospel recording artist, Yolanda Adams.

"Indiana Black Expo is pleased to welcome Ron Harper to Indianapolis and we are looking forward to having him as our Grand Marshal," said IBE President and CEO Tanya Bell.

Harper starred at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio for four seasons. As a freshman, Harper scored 12.8 points per game and led Miami in rebounding with 7.0 per game as the team went 13-15. As a sophomore, he led the Redhawks in scoring as they won the Mid American Conference championship, MAC tournament championship and earned a berth in the NCAA tournament. In his junior year he was named MAC Player of the Year. In his senior season he set both a Miami and a MAC tournament single game scoring record of 45 points in one game. He was named MAC Player of the Year and named second-team All American by both the Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI). Harper is Miami's all-time leading scorer.

Ron Harper was selected in the first round (eighth overall) in the 1986 NBA draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers. Harper made his NBA debut on November 1, 1986. He went on to play for the Los Angeles Clippers, Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers. He played 16 NBA seasons, scored 13,910 points, 3,916 assists and five championships. Harper is one of only three people to ever win consecutive NBA Championships on two different teams.

The 34th Annual Circle City Classic® Game featuring the Kentucky State University Thoroughbreds and the Central State University Mauraders will take place on Saturday, September 23 at 3 p.m. at Lucas Oil Stadium. For more information or to purchase tickets to the 34th Annual Circle City Classic®, you can visit the Indiana Black Expo Box Office at 3145 North Meridian or go online to www.circlecityclassic.com.

About Indiana Black Expo, Inc.

Indiana Black Expo, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) statewide organization with 12 chapter affiliates. The mission of IBE is to serve as a voice and vehicle for the social and economic advancement of African-Americans. IBE is known for its two major fundraisers, Summer Celebration and Circle City Classic®. IBE provides year round youth and family programs, including its Indiana College & Scholarship Fair, Summer Internship Program, Circle City Classic® Scholarship Fund, State of Our Black Youth Report and Initiative, Parent Leadership Academy, Youth Media Institute, Statewide Anti-Tobacco Initiative, Education Conference, Youth Leadership Summit, Employment Opportunity Fair, and Minority Business Conference. IBE is currently responsible for the implementation of the OpportunIndy as part of Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper Program.