



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Representative Karina Villa Calls On Illinois Attorney General’s Office to Investigate COVID-19 Related Death at MSI

West Chicago - State Representative Karina Villa is calling on the Illinois Attorney General’s office to immediately investigate the MSI factory in Batavia following a possible COVID-19 related death of a worker from that facility. While the Kane County coroner investigates the cause of death, Rep. Villa is requesting that the Attorney General’s office investigate what steps were taken by MSI to prevent transmission of COVID-19 between the date of the first cluster of cases that were reported on April 14 and the date that the company decided to enter in “voluntary compliance” with the Attorney General’s office on April 23 - nine days later.

“I am outraged that manufacturing facilities continue to put employees in harm’s way,” Villa said. “MSI reported their first cluster of cases on April 14th and would not take appropriate steps to have the factory professionally cleaned. Their negligence may have led to the death of an innocent person. We need to determine if facility management bears any responsibility, and if so, hold them accountable.”

Employees at the facility have repeatedly contacted Rep. Villa’s office to express their fears that they are not safe at work and retribution from the company if they speak out publicly. Workers have reported no social distancing and PPE has been limited to thin, paper face masks. Plant management has refused to hire a professional cleaning crew to clean and sanitize the plant and workers have not been provided with sufficient PPE or allowed to practice social distancing.

“Enough is enough. It’s time we start taking legal action against the negligence and willful endangerment that these factories are putting innocent people in. Businesses that endanger their employees will be held legally accountable.”

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