



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

JANE R. FLANAGAN
DIRECTOR

Warehouse Safety Standards Task Force MINUTES

Date: November 2, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: In-person: Joliet Junior College, Room EC2001
Virtual: By webinar via video conference connection

Call to Order: 10:30 a.m.
Jane Flanagan, Director of IDOL

Roll Call of Board Members:

Present: Director Jane Flanagan, Scott Kunkel (video), Sen. Seth Lewis, Rep. Kevin Olickal (video), Mayor Art Risavy, Rep. Katie Stuart, Marcos Cenicerros, Sen. Rachel Ventura, Aaron Harris (video), Sen. Erica Harriss (video)

Others Present: Cope family members: Carla Cope, Lynn Cope

Rep. Natalie Manley
Tommy Carden, Warehouse Workers for Justice
Cesar Escutia, Will County Board member and former Amazon worker
Drew, Amazon worker
Bruce, Masonry Institute (?)
Greg Bryant, Masonry Structural (?)
Beth Gutelius, Center for Urban Economic Development at UIC
Gabriela Garza, Illinois Manufacturers Association
Lynn Vasquez, Masonry Institute of Southern Illinois

Staff from IDOL: Jason Keller, Anna Koeppel, Erik Kambarian, Elizabeth Guerrero, Paul Cicchini, Andrew Fox

Quorum established

Opening Remarks:
Rep. Katie Stuart

Remarks by Jane Flanagan, Director of IDOL

- Highlighted three focus areas for the Task Force:

Lincoln Tower Plaza
524 South 2nd Street, Suite 400
Springfield, Illinois 62701
(217) 782-6206
Fax: (217) 782-0596

Michael A Bilandic Building
160 North LaSalle, Suite C-1300
Chicago, Illinois 60601-3150
(312) 793-2800
Fax: (312) 793-5257

Regional Office Building
2309 West Main Street, Suite 115
Marion, Illinois 62959
(618) 993-7090
Fax: (618) 993-7258

1. Structural issues
2. Policies and procedures related to workplace safety issues
3. Emergency response

Approval of Quarterly Report

- Motion by Sen. Seth Lewis
- Second by Rep. Katie Stuart
- Motion passed

New Business:

- **Expert Testimony**

Tommy Carden, Warehouse Workers for Justice

See video for full details of the presentation

Questions and comments were raised, that included but were not limited to following topics:

- Training at the facilities
- Fire hazards
- Heating and cooling systems
- Heat related issues and federal and state OSHA
- Healthcare at Amazon

Dr. Beth Gutelius, Research Director, Center for Urban Economic Development at the University of Illinois Chicago

- Findings from large scale study on Amazon warehouses

Questions and comments, on following topics:

- An interest in hearing more about third party temporary agencies was presented

- **Testimony by Cope Family**

- Mrs. Cope: main goal safety procedures, specific protocols, for these buildings, emergency would look like, that would be family's goal, for them to take responsibility
- Mr. Cope: would like to see emergency response plain, have a focal point, monitor when there is extreme weather, someone there, in case a situation, plan ahead, and get them into a safe and designated place. Have a plan and to get those people into that place in timely.

- **Board Discussion and Input**

- Sen. Ventura: themes for task force, Director discussed three focus areas. Next meeting would be on structural safety. Sen. Ventura would like to see building codes and building standards.
- Marcos Cenicerros: we see a lot of pollution around the warehouse parks. Assess land and surrounding areas.

- Discussion included would like to look at issues of state jurisdiction. Wants to keep task force focused on what we can manage and legislate, and structural safety or warehouses. Structural discussion could be had at the next meeting.
- Next meeting to focus on next structural safety and physical warehouse structures. Masonry industry was discussed as possible presenter at next meeting.
- Code enforcement was raised as possible area of exploration by the task force

Public Comment:

Jane Flanagan, Director: opened the floor to public comment:

- Comments were made regarding Amazon, scale and dominance over the other warehouse companies. Fire hazards were discussed.

Votes Taken:

Minutes from last meeting were approved

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.