

.Here is a statement from one of the plaintiffs suing the Mayor.

Even though she had registered as a 10th ward resident, sat online from beginning to end, she wasn't allowed to speak.

"My name is Jocelyn Rangel, and I'm a lifelong resident and registered nurse. Recently my father contracted bacterial pneumonia. He hadn't been out of the house in months for his own safety and yet he was still vulnerable to illness by virtue of his DNA, his life experience and his environment. My father, like many here, is a retired steelworker with more than a couple of comorbidities. Despite my best efforts, I could not keep him from getting sick.

New requirements sound great on paper, but if a company is a bad actor motivated only by greed and profit, rules mean nothing. Not only are there not enough inspectors to cite them in real time, but these fines are pocket change to a company that pays lobbyists thousands and thousands to influence aldermen and city officials. In 2015 Alderwoman Garza lobbied for RMGs tax incentive, General Iron conveniently decided to merge with RMG and then Alderwoman Garza conveniently accepted campaign donations from General Iron's lobbyists. If we have increased particulate fluff, diesel exhaust and thermal oxidizer explosions just a few blocks away, it will be that much harder to keep his lungs healthy. And I have two hepa filter air cleaners running at all times in my home. I know many here don't have the resources I have. How do these families keep their elderly out of the hospital with COPD exacerbation? Who's going to pay the rent when parents have to choose staying home from work to give their asthmatic child continuous nebulizer because their rescue inhaler isn't cutting it anymore.

My final question is when will it finally be enough? Will it be when we aren't just the sickest zip code in the city but in the state? The country? We have plenty of open land here but if the well is poisoned how do we continue to live? It's insulting to assume our community will grovel and beg for any operation that throws a few decent paying jobs to patronage hires and decimates their property values and tosses a few patronage jobs out.

It's a given there will never be dirty industry in Beverly, or Andersonville or Logan Square, they don't have the open land, and those residents have shown they have the means to impact elections. I think for far too long city hall has ignored the potential that we have as a community to affect the same kind of positive change. Our residents are waking up, they see with eyes wide open how city hall has placed barriers all around us, while only periodically throwing a few crumbs our way.

We demand better; from our health department, from our mayor and from our historically inept city council. If you refuse to hold yourself accountable to your constituents there will be a reckoning at the ballot box. This permit should be denied. Thank you."

Dr Arwady should be ashamed of herself.