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December 7, 2008

ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN INVESTIGATING SUDDEN CLOSURE OF REPUBLIC WINDOWS

Chicago — Responding to requests for assistance from the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America union, Attorney General Lisa Madigan has begun an investigation related to the sudden closure of Chicago-based Republic Windows, Inc. and the effect the closure is having on the company's employees and customers. Republic unexpectedly shut its doors last week with very little notice to employees.

"My Labor Counsel has been on site at Republic today talking with employees and union representatives and we will continue our investigation working as quickly as possible to protect the employees and consumers," said Attorney General Madigan. "I am extremely concerned with the actions of this company, which are having a significant impact on employees and their families."

The Attorney General is looking at all aspects of the company's closing, including its labor practices — whether it has met obligations to its employees regarding notice, any unpaid wages, severance, and vacation pay.

The Attorney General also is concerned about consumers who may have paid deposits toward the purchase of windows and may need assistance communicating with the company to get these deposits returned. Consumers having difficulty communicating with Republic regarding deposits should contact the Attorney General's consumer fraud hotline at 1-800-386-5438.

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