



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Draft SWEATFREE PURCHASES, COMMITTEE ON

Tuesday, August 24, 2010

5:00 PM

Parks Dept Rm 108
CCB 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Vice-Chair Rosenblum called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Present: 3 -
Satya V. Rhodes-Conway; Carol Bracewell and Jonathan D. Rosenblum

Absent: 2 -
Eric S. Hoyt and Mary E. Bottari

Excused: Norman Davis

Staff: Randy Whitehead, Monette McGuire

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ald. Rhodes-Conway, seconded by Bracewell to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2010 CSP meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ITEMS CONSIDERED

1. [18877](#)

Standing update on Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium activities -
Purchasing

**Sweatfree Communities is hosting a National Sweatfree Summit 2010 on
November 5-7 in Olympia, WA.**

**Prompted by the arrest in August, of garment industry labor leaders in
Bangladesh, on charges that they organized and participated in violent
protests, SPC will draft and send a letter to the Bangladesh government
expressing its concern over the situation. Individual members can send letters
as well.**

**Action: Committee agreed that Rosenblum will draft similar letter on City
letterhead, signed by the committee chair, to send to the Bangladesh
government. Draft copy of the letter to be emailed to committee members.**

**More than 180 US government agencies have adopted a sweatfree
procurement policy, the most recent being City of Seattle.**

No formal action was taken on this item.

2. [19661](#)

Status of committee member seats

**One regular member seat is vacant from Norm Davis's resignation. McGuire to
contact Mayor's Office to request appointment of alternate member, Carol
Bracewell, to the vacant seat. McGuire to continue to explore possible
replacement for member Eric Hoyt from Labor Licensing Committee.
Rosenblum to contact William Jones, a UW history professor and a specialist
in the history of African American labor for possible alternate seat.**

No formal action was taken on this item.

3. [19662](#) Discussion of Affidavit

Clarify the 5,000 limit and address various problems about the form, e.g., information required is unclear, (e.g. raw number of goods), form is not being filled out completely, etc.

Committee looked at City of Milwaukee's affidavit. (Exhibit A) The information required on Milwaukee's form was limited to addresses of companies and facilities, base hourly wage and percentage of wage level paid as health benefits. Committee agreed that the information required in Milwaukee's affidavit is insufficient and preferred to move towards adopting SPC's form, with the intent of having them also conduct the verification.

Enforcement policy also needs to be addressed. Issues about the form will be rendered mute if in the bigger picture, there is no enforcement when forms are not filled out.

Committee's priority is to determine what it is trying to accomplish before making any changes to the form or to the ordinance.

Consider a web-based system for vendors to maximize compliance.

Discussion continued about the different ways to apply the \$5,000 contract amount - by line item, by manufacturer, by total contract value. Some uniform contracts are issued separately by department based on specific needs. Some requirements are similar enough across departments that Purchasing is able to issue one contract for all departments. The key is to determine what is a reasonable threshold, so as not to dissolve any meaningful attempt in triggering participation/compliance.

No formal action was taken on this item.

4. [19663](#)

Prepare for vendor forum in September. Develop questions for discussion and/or survey

•Ability of Vendors to Complete the Affidavit

1. Explore reasons why forms are not being filled out (confidentiality, ability to acquire information, source of information, corporate policies, etc.)
2. What is confusing or unclear about the forms or the policy?
3. As a vendor, what information do you have that is readily available to you or available if requested from different levels of the supply chain?
4. How often does the information change – quarterly, yearly? How often do we need to check back to update the records?

•Motivation of Vendors and Suppliers to Comply with Ordinance

1. Determine reasons why vendors/manufacturers refuse to provide the information.
2. Poll vendors as to their motivation to comply or participate in the City's bid process, if the ordinance was enforced more strictly.
3. In your opinion, what do you think will make a difference in the working conditions for people in factories?
4. Assess willingness of vendors to pay fees for certification (through SPC) based on the size of opportunities available for competition

•How to implement the intent of the ordinance more effectively

1. How can we pull on the supply chain to send a signal that somebody cares about how workers are treated and the labor conditions of the factories where our uniforms are made and that we care about getting sufficient information that can be verified?
2. How do we design a system that will maximize vendor compliance that will in turn, also maximize our ability to verify the information submitted? To accomplish this, we need to be clear on the basic concepts of contract amount, standards of enforcement and verification, etc.
3. Get some sense of the depth of attention and penetration of sweatfree concepts in different levels of the supply chain as well as in the entire industry. To what extent are vendors and manufacturers communicating with each other or presenting information in a monitoring context?
4. In your opinion, what would make a difference in the working conditions in the factories?
5. Present the forum as an opportunity for vendors to assist the City in crafting a policy that will comply with the goals that the voters of the City have established and provide for better participation of vendors.

No formal action was taken on this item.

5. [19285](#)

Discussion of future meeting dates.

Vendor forum to be held on Tuesday, September 28th from 5- 7pm.

In advance of the forum, staff to send vendors details about the forum:
background: information, relevant forms, links and agenda for discussion.

Structure of Forum: Rhodes-Conway to facilitate if Mary is not available,
Rosenblum to provide brief context of the policy. McGuire to provide
background on SPC.

No formal action taken on this item.

6. [18547](#)

Agenda items for future meetings.

Forum Agenda

No formal action was taken on this item.

7. [19185](#)

Announcements

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rhodes-Conway, seconded by Rosenblum to adjourn at
6:15 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.