



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft SWEATFREE PURCHASES, COMMITTEE ON

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

5:00 PM 210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Room 406 (City-County
Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Bottari called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Present: 5 -

Satya V. Rhodes-Conway; Daniel Cox; Jonathan D. Rosenblum; Mary E.
Bottari and Carol Bracewell

GUEST: Lara Mainella, City of Madison Asst Attorney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ald. Rhodes-Conway, seconded by Bracewell to
approve the minutes from the August 24, 2010 CSP meeting. The motion
passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [19661](#) Status of committee member seats
 - a. Rhodes-Conway confirmed Daniel Cox's appointment at the Common Council meeting on 10/19/10. He will be the committee's student representative from UW Madison Labor Licensing Committee. Committee should schedule meetings around Daniel's Wednesday afternoon classes.
 - b. Carol Bracewell's status changed from alternate to regular City of Madison resident member.
 - c. Will Jones declined invitation for membership.
 - d. Alternate position is now vacant.
 - e. Mary indicated her intention of stepping down at the beginning of the year due to other commitments.
 - f. Considerations for filling current and future vacant seats include management representation from Fair Indigo (a clothing store in Hilldale Shopping Center), and/or union representatives from Local 60, Fire, Police, etc

No formal action was taken.

2. [18877](#) Standing update on Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium activities - Purchasing
 - a. McGuire - SPC has updated the letter to Bangladesh government to reflect current developments in the situation re: detention and harassment of labor rights advocates in Bangladesh. While released from detention, leaders and staff still face prosecution on all charges filed against them. The NGO registration of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS), the organization to which these charged leaders are affiliated, has also not been restored and the organization has not been permitted to function.
 - b. Bracewell participated in the SPC call on 10/20/10.
 - Guest Speaker: Donnie Hodge, President of COO of Knights Apparel
 - See attached Exhibit A for notes taken by Carol during the call.
 - Summary:

Knights Apparel (KA) is the largest supplier of college licensed apparel in the US. KA developed the Alta Gracia brand, named after a town in Dominican Republic that has 95% unemployment. KA's workers are unionized and paid 3-1/2 x the living wage as defined by the Workers Rights Consortium (WRC). KA primarily produces collegiate apparel but would consider creating a new module for uniforms used by municipal/state governments, if there is demand.

No formal action was taken.

3. [19183](#)

Workplan

Continuing discussion of Guidelines, Procedures and Evidentiary standards - policies for implementation of sweatfree ordinance.

Discussion items to be provided by Purchasing

Continuing discussion of Guidelines, Procedures and Evidentiary standards - policies for implementation of sweatfree ordinance.

a. Clarification of \$5,000 limit as stated in the ordinance.

- Is this per purchase, per item, per contract, per vendor, per manufacturer or annual purchase volume? Asst. City Attorney Mainella interprets this limit to apply to a purchase or contract.
- Example. Single purchase that is estimated at \$6,000 and consists of 15 different apparel items. Should 15 different affidavits be filled out by multiple vendors?

b. Wage issue (fair vs. minimum) is usually problematic to verify.

c. Affidavit. Intent is for vendors to supply verifiable information (e.g. name, address) for the proposed SPC database. Provide incentives (e.g. more points) for vendors who are willing to provide more specific and complete information. Issues about brands/manufacturers not willing to disclose factory locations for competitive reasons.

d. Compliance. The ordinance has strict requirements that no vendor can meet and does not provide for any form of an "out" or waiver. The concern is how the City can restore credibility of the ordinance when currently, there is no consequence for noncompliance.

e While the original ordinance that was passed did not account for many issues, including the flexibility to participate in a consortium, its effectiveness and impact on vendors and factories, it has served a purpose in ratcheting up industry standards overall and progressive improvements have been made by creating a baseline for compliance.

f. Committee to itemize specific issues to focus on in agenda.

no formal action was taken.

4. [20250](#) Upcoming vendor forum
 - Schedule forum on November 9. Possible times 12 noon to 2pm or 4:30 to 6:30pm.
 - Recap of forum format: 'Welcome' by Mary, 'Why we care' by Jonathan, Introduction of SPC by Monette.
 - Focus on questions about vendors' experience in complying with sweatfree policies, what makes them care enough to reach out to their supply chains, what appropriate incentives can be implemented to get them to better comply.

No formal action was taken.

5. [20251](#) Committee Annual Report
 - Include summary of committee's role and function, discussion of specific items in the ordinance, vendor forum results and any action items at the end of the year.

No formal action was taken.

6. [20016](#) Dates and agenda for future meetings
 - Next meeting will be on Thursday, November 11 following the vendor forum

No formal action was taken.

7. [19185](#) Announcements
 - None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rhodes-Conway, seconded by Rosenblum to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.