

Meeting Minutes for University City Sweatfree Purchasing Advisory Board

February 23rd, 2011

City Hall, 7:00 pm

Those present: Susan Armstrong, Jim Adams, Emily Miller, Jerry Hochsztein, Ann Marie Schutzius, Sarah Watson (working on Olivette through IFCLA)

- Jerry to send affidavit by email before next meeting
- Purpose of next meeting will be to review/edit the affidavit
- Will submit affidavit to City Attorney for review in March, affidavit then goes out with Invitations to Bid in April
- Need additional contacts for Green Committee still

Notes from conversation with Bjorn (Sweatfree.org)

- A procurement/purchasing guide is being drafted by Sweatfree.org

Things to note for affidavit:

- Simple and straightforward
- Set out code of conduct
- Two main things
 1. That vendors commit to comply with the code of conduct which is legally binding
 2. Provide information as to where in the supply chain process they comply and where they don't (factories, locations)
- Optional to include wage and benefit questions (not absolutely necessary)
- Labor violations are the norm (very few full compliance factories)
- Be careful not to give incentives to provide false statements, if it is written that full compliance is necessary to receive the bid, vendors will lie
- In Seattle and Portland, full compliance isn't necessary, rather must illustrate partial compliance, *where* violating and *how* will become fully compliant in the future
- This gives vendors incentives to disclose factories and locations where there is noncompliance
- Idea of a partnership (with action plan) rather than hard edge contract
- If a vendor/store has distinct manufacturers, they must communicate with manufacturers, it is still the on the vendors to provide information on manufacturing conditions
- In Maine 2002, there was lots of pushback from apparel vendors; Maine wouldn't buy without a signed code of conduct so it left two contracts unfilled, it took multiple years to turn this around; Maine also chose to publish factory locations for vendors on website (this was likely a deterrent)
- push back has largely been because of not wanting to disclose factory locations
- some claim a loss of competitive edge however this is likely not true as most companies know where their competitors are providing
- there is the fear of knock-offs as other companies take advantage of this information however we do not know how often or likely this is to occur
- working on supply chain database; includes factory, vendor, manufacturer, and purchaser
- eventually can be used to identify Sweatfree options for cities
- ideally vendors will disclose information to this databank – only includes factory names, not what good is being produced

More about Sweatfree.org

- purchasing guide should be drafted by February 30th
- demonstration of the database should be ready by mid April
- Susan is putting our names on the contact list to be notified about development with Sweatfree.org
- there will be a video conference for the annual meeting

Alta Gracia is a great success story from the Dominican Republic (read the NY Times article), it is a basic apparel producer that is part of the Workers Rights Consortium and manages to competitively produce in the global apparel industry while maintaining human conditions and giving workers a living wage

- future contacts:

- can talk with Board of Consortium representatives
- Municipalities: Madison, WI (however recently withdrew membership); Austin, TX; Seattle, WA; Ashland, OR; Portland, OR; Los Angeles, CA (huge and have independent monitoring but still have made good strides so possibly worth talking to)
- can talk with Program and Compliance Committee (reps from Portland and Madison are on this committee), can work with them on a generic affidavit draft if we want to, would be a good idea to send them our affidavit at minimum

Below is the information Susan received after the meeting for reference:

- Austin, TX; Sam Dominguez: Sam.Dominguez@ci.austin.tx.us
- Ashland, OR: Lee Tuneberg: tuneberl@ashland.or.us
- Seattle, WA: Nancy Locke: Nancy.Locke@seattle.gov
- Portland, OR: Christine Moody: Christine.Moody@portlandoregon.gov
- Madison, WI: Monette McGuire: MMcGuire@cityofmadison.com

- Sarah talked briefly about the United Students Against Sweatshops – in Honduras, a contract with Nike was cut until labor conditions were fixed
- could we get UCity Parks and Recreation to use Alta Gracia for their shirt production?, currently using silk screening on the loop, contract is probably under \$2000 and thus not under this board's domain but we can still suggest this idea

- We will find out if Propper is one of Leon's manufacturers for the products they sell to UCity through the affidavit
- We are still in the discovery stage

Next meeting: March 9th, 7:00 pm City Hall

- **check for Jerry's email with affidavit; please review it before the next meeting!**