

2010 City Council Budget Action (SLI)

Ready for Notebook

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Budget Action Title: Request that DEA develop and implement a policy for procuring uniforms for City employees that ensures they are manufactured using fair labor standards.

Councilmembers: Burgess; Clark; Conlin; Drago; Godden; Harrell; Licata; McIver; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Brian Hawksford

Budget Committee Vote:

Date		Total	TB	SC	RC	JD	JG	BH	NL	RM	TR
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

Sweatshops are not an aberration in the global apparel industry; U.S. Department of Labor cites over 50% of the sewing shops in the United States as sweatshops. Sweatshops definitively violate labor, environmental, and human rights laws and standards at the local and/or international level.

From 2001 to 2004, Washington lost 66,700 manufacturing jobs, 27,000+ being trade-related losses.

The City of Seattle has an interest in encouraging the creation of local jobs and businesses by its policies. In turn, the local economy thrives when incentives exist for fair business practices, increasing the competitive ability of companies with fair labor practices, and leveling the playing field for regional manufacturers.

City funding using taxpayer dollars should be used in responsible ways that comply with existing goals and policies. The City should investigate other regional governmental jurisdictions for best practices that fit with the City's goals and practices.

The Council requests the Department of Executive Administration (DEA) develop and implement a procurement policy that ensures that uniforms for City employees are not manufactured in facilities using unfair labor practices. To ensure balance and equity in crafting the procurement policy, Council requests that DEA use a participatory process that includes relevant community stakeholders and representatives. At a minimum this policy would require the following of bidders on uniform contracts:

List of Manufacturing Locations: The bidder must submit a list of all contractors, subcontractors and manufacturing plants involved in the manufacturing process of the product. If the vendor intends to change any company on this list during the course of the contract, the vendor must notify the City and comply with contract terms regarding approval of subcontracting.

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Code of Conduct: The City requires that the bidder agree to a code of conduct that will apply to the vendor, subcontractors and manufacturing plants that are involved in the manufacturing process of the product.

Fair Labor Monitoring: The bidder must agree to submit the name of an independent monitoring agency that the vendor will use for this contract. The monitoring agency must be accredited by the Fair Labor Association (FLA) to monitor compliance with the code of conduct per the FLA Principles of Monitoring, for all of the contractors and manufacturing plants that are involved in the manufacturing process for the product. The name of the monitoring agency can be submitted at time of bid or provided upon the City's intent to award. If the bidder chooses to wait until the City issues intent to award to the bidder, the bidder must supply the name in a timely way to not delay execution of the contract, or the City may reject the offer and proceed to the next compliant bidder. During the contract, the City may request information about monitoring and compliance, which the bidder shall provide to the City as a condition of the contract.

In 2010 the policy need not cover uniforms purchased through collectively bargained uniform allowances. However, Council requests that DEA propose a plan and schedule for incorporating the policy into future negotiations for labor contracts. Additionally, the Council requests that DEA seek out opportunities to participate in a state and local government sweatshop free consortium. This consortium could pool resources for the investigation and the monitoring of supplier factories and coordinate the implementation and enforcement of sweatfree procurement standards.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Culture, Civil Rights, Health, and Personnel

Date Due to Council: June 1, 2010