

April 13, 2010
Seattle Municipal Tower, 4112 41st Floor
Sweatfree & Slave Free Purchasing Policy Advisory Committee
2:30 – 4:00 pm

Invitations/Attendees:

- ✓ Nate Van Duzen, CM Tim Burgess
- ✓ Brian Hawksford, CM Rasmussen
- ✓ Morgan Currier, Student Labor Action Project
- ✓ Masha Burina, Seattle Women's Commission
- ✓ Julie McCarty, Department of Personnel
- ✓ Robert Beiser, J Connect (Robert@hilleluw.org)
- ✓ Dan Eder, Central Council Staff
- ✓ Dolly Small, City Purchasing, Contracting Equity Manager
- Candace Inagi, Office of the Mayor
- Kristen Beifus, Director, Washington Fair Trade Coalition
- Lisa Herbold, CM Licata
- Sara King, Intern, Washington Fair Trade Coalition
- Jacque Larrainzer, Office of Civil Rights
- Patrick Neville, King County Labor Council
- Patricia Lee, Central Council Staff

Completed Agenda:

- ✓ Introductions

- ✓ Labor Union Presentation (Julie McCarty)

- ✓ Purchasing Presentation (Nancy Locke)

Circulated but not yet discussed:

- Basic Policy Structure Agreements
 - Policy Statement of progressive action
 - Apply to employee, primes and subs
 - Apply to sealed bid thresholds (\$44,000) and above
 - Uniforms only, progress as best practices evolve
 - Vendors must sign a Code of Conduct
 - Vendors must provide List of Manufacturing Locations
 - Vendors must agree to monitoring as available
 - Policy allows Standard exemptions

- Report Back
 - **Definition of Uniform**
 - Portland: Included those with likely success. Expect to phase other items over time.
 - Included (examples): Dress shirts, t-Shirts, trousers, polo shirts, sweatshirts, footwear, baseball caps
 - Excluded (examples): Safety harness and/or safety related accessories, duty belts, holsters, ballistic vests , bunker gear.
 - San Francisco: Included broader scope, with “most compliant” approach

- Included: apparel, garments and corresponding accessories
- Included (2/11/2010): (Textiles) all items of cloth produced by weaving, knitting, sewing or similar production processes, including but not limited to such cloth items as sheets, pillows, pillowcases, towels, blankets, comforters, bath mats, mattress covers, table linens, cloth napkins, cleaning cloths, draperies, upholstery, rugs and entrance mats, but excluding carpets.
- **Factory Locations - examples**
 - Blumenthals
 - City Shirt Company, Frackville PA
 - Fechheimer Trousers, Nationwide Uniform, Kentucky
 - Fechheimer Shirts, Maryland
 - Feichheimer Trousers, Barranquilla Columbia, South America
 - Safariland Uniform, Ontario California
 - Rocky Brands Boot– would not disclose locations
 - San Mar (Blumenthal) joined the Fair Labor Association non-profit
- Parking Lot issues
 - Code of conduct statement
 - Funding
 - Monitoring
 - Phases (rental uniforms, subcontracting uniforms, accessories)
- Next meeting date – April 20 weekly 2:30 – 4:00

Meeting Notes:

- *Reviewed labor agreements (Julie McCarty)*
- *Reviewed Purchasing presentation (Nancy Locke)*
- *Discussion on objectives:*
 - *Scope: promote better working conditions by soliciting vendors that have best sweatfree practices as a consideration in the way the City selects products to purchase*
 - *Opportunities (also see 3/23 notes)*

What is the right policy format? Internal policy, rule, resolution, ordinance? SLI called for internal policy.

- *San Francisco had 3 versions so far, so the issue is evolving rapidly. Need policy with flexibility to adopt in phases.*
- *Look at a internal policy initially until knowledge and experience progresses enough to ensure a long-term policy that can be codified by ordinance*

Limiting factors:

- *Limited by current long-term contracts until they expire*
- *Labor agreements require negotiations*
- *Cost risks –*
 - *Choices:*
 - *Apply a cost cap (other models use 15%),*
 - *Cons: Would require Council Ordinance so delays implementation*
 - *Cons: Invites a cost window of as much as \$225,000/year given \$1.5 million spend at 15%*

- *Start with an initial policy that only includes garment uniforms (limited scope) and don't seek a cost cap.*
- *Broader application beyond strict definition of garment/uniform results in greater unknowns, greater cost risk. Focused policy on uniform garments, but give flexibility for policy to apply to more products as industry/monitoring expands*
- *Limit cost impacts by reducing first phase scope to uniforms, following the definitions of uniforms used by other agencies that have tested it out.*
- *Limited by monitoring – no extensive monitoring agency. Policy can require vendor to agree to monitoring, and separate phase for implementation of monitoring*
- *Local economy may not have immediate benefits – most current facilities are elsewhere in US*
- *Work on larger impact contracts, not incidentals (sealed bid limit thresholds)*
- *Note that SLI sought to impact local economy; need to research potential and speak to that.*