

RESOLUTION NO. 63,796–N.S.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SWEAT-FREE CONSORTIUM AND ALLOCATING \$25,000 IN PREVIOUSLY SET ASIDE FUNDS FOR SWEAT-FREE COMMUNITIES, INC.

WHEREAS, sweatshop conditions in apparel and other industries around the world and in the United States are well documented; and

WHEREAS, workplace abuses cause untold human suffering for workers and their families across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Berkeley has endorsed the concept that ethical consumption requires the City not to purchase goods from sweatshops, setting aside \$25,000 toward sweatshop-free purchasing and supporting the establishment of a sweatshop-free purchasing ordinance for the City, which is currently under development; and

WHEREAS, cities, acting as any other consumer in the marketplace, may lawfully choose to buy goods that are not made in sweatshops.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley declares its support for the development of the state and local government sweatshop-free consortium that will pool resources for investigation and monitoring of supplier factories and coordinating the implementation and enforcement of sweatshop-free procurement standards based on the following key principles:

- All companies in the supply chain producing the goods sold to the City are responsible for ensuring that the workers producing those goods do not work under sweatshop conditions.
- Vendors must commit to a Code of Conduct with strong protections for workers in supplier factories, requiring adherence to international standards of workplace fairness and safety and non-poverty wages. Vendors must publicly disclose the locations and working conditions in supplier factories.
- Factory investigations will be primarily complaint-based with the goal of rectifying Code of Conduct violations. An independent monitor, which is neither owned nor controlled in whole or in part by the industry to be monitored and does not derive any revenue from this industry, will have full control of the investigatory process, working in partnership with organizations, situated in the local factory community, that have demonstrated commitment to the human rights and basic needs of workers.

- Working conditions generally improve when workers have a meaningful right to freedom of association, because it is workers who have the greatest incentive and opportunity to monitor working conditions on a day-to-day basis.
- Code of Conduct compliance requires fair purchasing terms between companies and factories, because the product price and requirements for volume and turnaround time shape the conditions in which factories strive for compliance. The Consortium will develop mechanisms to ensure that supplier factories receive stable and sufficient orders at a fair price. In return, factories will have to maintain Code of Conduct compliance and be open to inspections by an independent monitor.
- The Consortium will begin work in the apparel sector but will consider expanding its scope to other industries where sweatshops are of concern.
- Consortium affiliation will be open to all public entities (cities, counties, states, school districts) that adopt a Code of Conduct with strong protections for workers in supplier factories; require vendors to publicly disclose names, addresses and working conditions of supplier factories; pay annual dues, which will be mutually determined by Consortium members; and, as soon as contractually possible, require vendors to commit to fair purchasing with their suppliers.
- The governing board of the Consortium will include government representatives, who will constitute the majority, and advocates and experts committed to the enforcement of worker rights.
- In order to maintain its independence, the Consortium will not accept any funding from the industries to be monitored.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager shall designate a lead staffperson to serve as liaison to SweatFree Communities, Inc. and the state and local government sweatshop-free consortium, and shall advise the City Council, the Commission on Labor, and the Peace and Justice Commission of the identity of that staffperson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager shall issue payment of the previously allocated \$25,000 to SweatFree Communities, Inc. to support formation of the state and local government sweatshop-free consortium, contingent upon commitment of adequate funds to reach the planned \$60,000 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City may be referred to as an active Provisional Member of the state and local government sweatshop-free consortium.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Division of Purchases, State of Maine, and to SweatFree Communities, Inc. at the following addresses:

Betty Lamoreau, Director
Division of Purchases
9 State House Station
Burton M. Cross Building, 4th Floor
111 Sewall Street
Augusta, ME 04333-0009

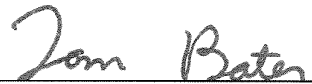
Bjorn Claeson, Director
SweatFree Communities, Inc.
30 Blackstone St.
Bangor, ME 04401

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on July 17, 2007 by the following vote:

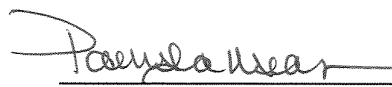
Ayes: Anderson, Capitelli, Maio, Moore, Olds, Spring, Worthington, Wozniak and Bates.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.



Tom Bates, Mayor

Attest: 

Pamyla Means, MMC, City Clerk