



City of Saint Louis

Resolution

A Resolution Pertaining to Sweatshop Free Procurement

WHEREAS, there is ample documentation that abusive sweatshop conditions and practices are widespread in the global garment industry, including serious violations of the wage, health and safety laws of relevant jurisdictions; repeated violations of the core labor rights as defined by the International Labor Organization, as well as universally condemned practices of forced labor and indentured child labor; and

WHEREAS, indiscriminate buying of uniforms by public agencies from vendors at the very end of the garment supply chain easily can and frequently does result in the purchase of uniforms produced in sweatshops, with the unintended consequences that public money is (1) indirectly supporting the inhumane and illegal activity of sweatshops, (2) giving unfair advantage to sweatshop users who can offer products at lower costs than operators who comply with the law and rights of workers and, further, (3) helping to perpetuate the cycles of poverty, deprivation and poor health where sweatshops dominate local economies, thus promoting further social instability; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis Supplies Division and Board of Standardization currently uses standards set forth in Ordinance 62017 for purchasing goods and commodities for the City; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 62017 also provides that the Supply Division of the City of St. Louis shall purchase supplies for all departments, boards, or offices, exclusive of material for public work or improvement, according to standards and specifications, if any, adopted or prepared by the Board of Standardization and by advertising for proposals thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen is recommending by and through this Resolution that the Board of Standardization require, pursuant to their power to set standards and specifications, that a detailed disclosure form be completed by vendors who are awarded the annual contract for the City of St. Louis's uniforms so that the City may document where and under what workplace conditions and labor practices the uniforms are being produced; and

WHEREAS, the average annual expenditure in the City the last three years for Uniforms and other similar items (including bedding and shoes) was approximately \$530,000 and, thus about \$530,000 of annual spending for the City of St. Louis is potentially at risk of supporting a sweatshop operation somewhere in the world—a situation in which the Board of Aldermen find unacceptable and in need of remedy; and

WHEREAS, approximately 14 states, counies, cities and other public entities in the United States have taken steps to begin sweatshop free buying, the Sweatshop-Free initiative stands in need of highly visible and credible leadership among public entities in Missouri and Illinois, as well as nationally, which leadership this City desires to provide and is capable of providing; and

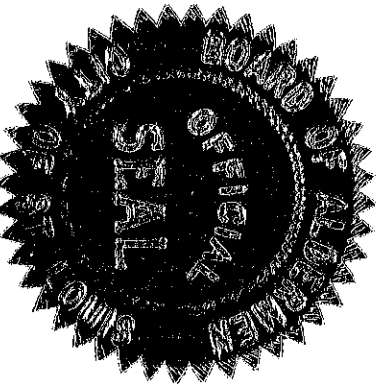
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen requests that the Board of Standardization prepare standards and specifications for a Comprehensive Sweatshop Free Program and that such standards include the requirement for the vendor to complete a procurement disclosure form documenting the location of the factory where the items purchased by the City will be manufactured, the minimum base hourly wage of the employees employed by the factory, working hours of factory employees, benefits provided to factory employees and whether the factory is under investigation for any violation of State, Federal or local laws;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of St. Louis may join in the future the national Sweatshop Free Procurement Consortium whose membership is composed of three states and 12 municipalities seeking the most effective ways for governmental bodies to share information and resources to become a single entity powerful enough to positively influence the global garment industry on sweatshop-free issues, including monitoring and certification of manufacturers, and joint purchasing contacts to gain bulk discounts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City conduct the necessary educational, promotional and public relations efforts to assure that the municipal staff, the community and public at large are given ample opportunities to understand and appreciate the rationale for the City of St. Louis' sweatshop-free buying policies.

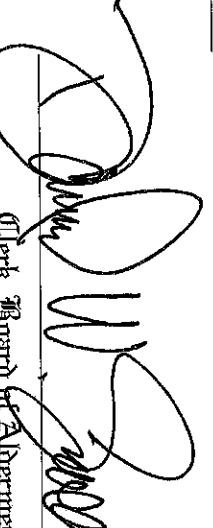
Introduced on the 29th day of June, 2012 by:


Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward
Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen
Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward
Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward
Honorable Freeman Bosley, Sr., Alderman 3rd Ward
Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward
Honorable Tamnika Hubbard, Alderwoman 5th Ward
Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward
Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward
Honorable Stephen Conway, Alderman 8th Ward
Honorable Kenneth Ortman, Alderman 9th Ward
Honorable Joseph Vollmer, Alderman 10th Ward
Honorable Thomas Albert Villa, Alderman 11th Ward



Honorable Larry Arnowitz, Alderman 12th Ward
Honorable Alfred Wessels, Jr., Alderman 13th Ward
Honorable Carol Howard, Alderwoman 14th Ward
Honorable Jennifer Florida, Alderwoman 15th Ward
Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward
Honorable Joseph Roddy, Alderman 17th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy, Alderman 18th Ward
Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward
Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward
Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward
Honorable Joe Vaccaro, Alderman 23rd Ward
Honorable Scott Oglivie, Alderman 24th Ward
Honorable Shane Cohn, Alderman 25th Ward
Honorable Frank Williamson, Alderman 26th Ward
Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward
Honorable Lyda Krewson, Alderwoman 28th Ward


Alderman 20th Ward


Alderman 1st Ward


President, Board of Aldermen