



Kriss Worthington

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REVISED
CONSENT CALENDAR
 June 12, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Subject: Budget referral: \$ 35,000 for Sweatshop-Free Ordinance implementation

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the budget review process a recommendation to appropriate \$ 35,000 to fund the Sweatfree Consortium as well as additional staffing needs of the City of Berkeley Purchasing Department to implement the Sweatshop-Free Ordinance.

BACKGROUND

In response to the unjust and unethical treatment of sweatshop employees, the City Council in June 2006 approved the Sweatshop-Free Ordinance. Soon afterwards, the Council allocated \$ 25,000 from the General Fund towards contracting with the Sweatfree Consortium and partially funding city implementation of the Sweatshop-Free Ordinance. These funds were not utilized last year while the consortium was being formed, but could be re-appropriated through the City Manager's office and sent to the Sweatfree Communities, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit association that administers the consortium, into an account expressly established for this purpose. An enforcement mechanism will be established and research and monitoring support will be provided to participating cities, states, and other public entities. Four states (Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York) and two cities (Los Angeles and San Francisco) ~~have already contributed to participating in and funding the consortium~~ have committed to participating in the consortium, and several public entities ~~such as Oregon~~ are undergoing preliminary steps to contribute funds. Berkeley is poised to become the first "small" city to contribute financially to this effort. Additionally, over 170 states, cities, school districts, and other public entities have some kind of ethical purchasing guidelines in place, which guide their procurement decisions.

Funding the Sweatshop-Free Ordinance at the full amount will grant immediate benefits to governments and taxpayers, since duplication of government budgets and staff efforts in conducting investigations will be avoided and purchasing decision will be made in a more efficient and cost-effective manner; to manufacturers and vendors, who will enjoy uniform sweatfree procurement rules across jurisdictions; and to factories, who will be assured the ability to compete fairly for government contracts. Furthermore, a portion of the funds could be set aside to counteract any additional staffing costs and time generated by the interface of information provided by the Sweatfree Consortium with the database employed by the city's Purchasing Department.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$ 35,000 from the General Fund to support implementation of the ordinance.

CONTACT PERSON

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