



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR July 17, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Spring
 Subject: Sweat-Free Consortium

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council adopt a resolution supporting the development of the state and local sweatshop-free consortium and allocating \$ 25,000 of previously set aside funds to SweatFree Communities Inc. to support formation of the state and local government sweatshop-free consortium, contingent upon commitment of equal funds from one or more other government entities.

BACKGROUND:

There is considerable evidence of workplace abuses in sweatshops throughout the United States and the world. Not only do these workers receive poverty wages they are also subjected to dangerous working conditions. In response to the unjust and unethical treatment of sweatshop employees over 170 cities, states, school districts and public entities throughout the country have adopted ethical procurement standards to ensure that companies that these agencies contract with provide just wages and conditions for their workers. In order to ensure that these policies are effectively enforced many of these public entities are working with SweatFree Communities Inc. to form a consortium to provide research and monitoring support.

In June 2006 the City Council endorsed the concept of a sweatshop-free policy and set aside \$ 25,000 in funding to support sweatshop-free purchasing and enforcement. These funds were not utilized last year while the consortium was being formed. The City Manager has carried over these funds to the fiscal year 2008 budget and it is important for the city to allocate these funds to SweatFree Communities Inc. to support the development of the consortium.

Through the adoption of this resolution, the City of Berkeley will become the first small city to contribute financially to this effort. Berkeley has had a long time commitment to promoting workers rights and social justice and by participating in the consortium the city will be able to help address the problem of sweatshop conditions and serve as a leader for other cities to adopt ethical procurement standards.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$ 25,000 from the General Fund that was previously set aside for sweatshop-free policy enforcement.

CONTACT PERSON:

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