

State and Local Government Sweatfree Consortium Interim Steering Committee

February 17, 2009, 4:05pm-5:35pm EST

Present:

Galen Leung, City of San Francisco
Chip Gavin, State of Maine
Bama Athreya, International Labor Rights Forum
Julie Su, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
Eric Dirnbach, UNITE HERE
Bjorn Claeson, SweatFree Communities (facilitator)
Liana Foxvog, SweatFree Communities (note-taker)
Victoria Kaplan, SweatFree Communities

1. Agenda Review

Agenda adopted as proposed.

2. February 2nd minutes

Minutes approved as written.

3. Update on RFP for independent monitor process

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has received proposals, is currently reviewing, and is sending to Oregon and Ohio for review. Additional information is not available at this time.

4. White Paper changes

Bjorn reviewed the key changes to the white paper. Those convened on the call signaled approval for the latest version of the white paper with the following additional changes:

- p.1: Suggestion to edit the language so that it expresses the sentiment that we aspire toward non-poverty wages and that workers should be able to fully exercise their human and labor rights, while distinguishing. The group supported this phrasing: "Sweatfree procurement at its core means that the workers who make the products governments bought by governments enjoy lawful working conditions and wages. The Sweatfree Consortium also recognizes that all workers have the right to dignified working conditions, to fully exercise their human and labor rights, and to non-poverty wages."
- Delete word "meager" from p.9
- Add the words in caps: In order to preserve independence of judgment and action, the Steering Committee shall not include any member who could be PERSONALLY financially or materially affected by the actions of the Consortium, or who is significantly affiliated with any NON-GOVERNMENTAL organization that could be materially affected by the actions of the Consortium.
- Add the word in caps: The Consortium may not accept funding from any NON-GOVERNMENTAL party that is or could be financially or materially affected by the Consortium's activities.

- Add note before the sample code saying that codes of conduct vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and that this is a sample code that jurisdictions are welcome to adopt.

Other comments:

Question for research: Could a state pass legislation to join the Consortium and simply refer to the Consortium's code of conduct (without adopting their own)?

Bjorn spoke with Roxana Dietz before the call; she thinks that it will be approved by PA after sharing with Secretary Creedon's office. Julie Su believes that the changes meet many of the concerns raised by Los Angeles.

We clarified the process by which public entities can now join: An appropriate public official signs a document that says "yes we're in", agreeing to the principles, and send a \$500 check to SweatFree Communities. Before a Sweatfree Consortium bank account is arranged checks may be made out to SweatFree Communities (memo line: Consortium). The public entity is then a member and would be eligible to join the steering committee.

5. Discuss options for Consortium launch

Liana reviewed some ideas (see next page). There was interest in having visibility at NASPO March meeting but feelings that it's too soon to announce a launch. Galen showed interest in Option IV but noted that April may be too soon. After June 30th would be easiest for Maine due to appropriations process. Betty Lamoreau will be at the NASPO meeting in Chicago.

Please send additional input to liana@sweatfree.org.

- 6. Next meeting: Monday, March 9, 4:00pm Eastern. Chip will send a reminder with the phone number.**

Some topics for next call:

Review Consortium promotional material for use at NASPO conference

Discuss plan to encourage more leadership grants

Ideas for Sweatfree Consortium launch:

Option I:

NASPO Meeting & Green Expo, March 22-24, 2009, Chicago

- Already planned: Sweatfree Consortium exhibit booth

- Sweatfree Consortium reception including brief speeches, moderated by SFC staff:

Garment worker from U.S. or Central America, CEO of company with production in U.S., 1-2 procurement officials. Press invited for announcement of Consortium launch.

Option II: Launch in conjunction with another event

Upcoming events:

National Conference of Mayors, June 12-16, 2009, Providence, Rhode Island

National Governors Association Meeting, July 17-20, 2009, Biloxi, Mississippi

NIGP Annual Forum, Aug. 22-26, St. Louis, Missouri

NASPO Annual Conference, Sept. 21-24, Lake Tahoe, Nevada

Option III: Launch from a leading public entity featuring local political leader

Who has interest and capacity to organize it?

Would purchasing officials from other states be able to travel to the event?

Option IV:

Launch from multiple locations around the country with national teleconference for media and live press conferences at statehouses and city halls.

Benefits: Enables participation from politicians, purchasing staff, and advocates from around the country while saving on travel cost. Events will be accessible to local media in each state.

Timing: A week or so after Tax Day (April 15) release of Subsidizing Sweatshops (2nd Edition) report.