



A Network for Local Action Against Sweatshops

## Subsidizing Sweatshops II

### Factsheet for Cuyahoga County, Ohio

April 15, 2009-- *Subsidizing Sweatshops II* tracks developments in four factories covered in the *Subsidizing Sweatshops I* (July 2008) and adds four additional factory case studies. These eight factories are located in China, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and United States and produce for nine major uniform brands – Armor Holdings / BAE, Cintas Corporation, Eagle Industries, Elbeco, Fechheimer Brothers Company, Lion Apparel, Propper International, Rocky Brands, and Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing.

*Subsidizing Sweatshops II* documents severe violations of labor law and human rights in nearly all factories investigated. In light of these findings, SweatFree Communities asks companies to improve conditions in the facilities and assess the impact of their prices, delivery schedules, and supply chain relationships on factories' ability to comply with codes of conduct and labor rights standards. In addition, SweatFree Communities urges governments to maintain contracts with companies working to remedy violations and to join the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium.

Below is a summary of labor conditions documented in the report at a factory that provides products to a brand that supplies the Cuyahoga County. The full report, including quotes from workers and detailed recommendations, is available at [www.sweatfree.org/subsidizing](http://www.sweatfree.org/subsidizing).

**Brand: Fechheimer**

**Factory investigated: Alamode** (Siguatepeque, Honduras)

**Vendor:** Standard Law Enforcement Supply Co.

**Product:** Shirts and trousers. Contract information is from a spreadsheet supplied by the Cuyahoga County.

Despite some improvements since July 2008, these issues remain:

- **Health and safety** measures need to be improved; **verbal harassment** remains a problem; and workers still feel **pressure to work overtime** hours that should be voluntary.
- Strong evidence that Alamode has required workers to undergo **annual pregnancy tests** and failed to acknowledge this worker rights violation.

Note: Currently SweatFree Communities does not have information as to whether this particular factory is supplying Cuyahoga County. However, the County has a recent contract with a vendor that supplies products made by Fechheimer. Fechheimer sources from this factory, among others.

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