

O-819-02 Establishing Guidelines to Address the Purchase of Items of Apparel, Footwear, Textile, and Related Products from Ethical and Responsible Contractors.

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of The City of Toledo to purchase products from responsible and ethical contractors who provide quality goods and services at a competitive price; and

WHEREAS, certain manufacturers of apparel, footwear, textiles, and related products in the U.S. and around the world have been found to maintain sweatshop conditions which include below-subsistence wages; unhealthy and unsafe working environments; excessively long hours; child, indentured, and prison labor; persistent disregard for local and international labor laws and workplace regulations; and systematic repression of fundamental women's rights, human rights, and workers' rights; and

WHEREAS, sweatshops threaten the jobs and wages of all workers whose companies may relocate for cheaper labor; and

WHEREAS, appropriate governmental purchasing practices can be effective in combating sweatshop production practices; NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Toledo:

SECTION 1. Whenever possible, the City of Toledo will purchase items of apparel, footwear, textiles, and related products from responsible and ethical manufacturers who disclose the names and addresses of each manufacturing facility in which the supplied products have been made, and who operate in accordance with established codes of corporate conduct regarding wages, work-place health and safety, forced labor, child labor, and freedom of association, as embodied in United Nations (U.N.) and International Labor Organization (I.L.O.) conventions.

SECTION 2. All requests for bids on such items shall include a statement of the City's policy regarding such purchases.

SECTION 3. The Purchasing Agent shall submit a series of questions to bidders of items of apparel, footwear, textiles, and related products in order to determine the names and locations of manufacturing facilities in which the products under consideration are made, to ascertain the working conditions at these manufacturing facilities, and to demonstrate that working conditions are of concern in the City's purchasing decisions.

SECTION 4. The Purchasing Department shall review its past purchases to determine which items of apparel, footwear, textiles, and related products purchased by the City over the past year are manufactured or produced by firms that have violated international standards of labor rights or human rights as determined by a suitable and bona fide international body such as the International Labor Organization of the United Nations. Such review may also include pertinent information on the manufacturers of these goods from other reputable sources, including those outlined in Section 4 above.

The Purchasing Department shall report its findings to the Toledo City Council.

SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: November 5, 2002: yeas 12, nays 0.

Attest: Michael J. Beazley
Clerk of Council

Peter Ujvagi
President of Council

Approved: November 11, 2002

Jack M. Ford
Mayor