



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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TO: Mayor & City Council

FROM: Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Executive Assistant to the City Manager; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Michael Bernard, City Attorney; Catherine J. Hernandez, Special Projects Manager; Ramiro Gonzales, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Resolution to restrict the use of Sweatshop labor

DATE: October 14, 2008

Issue Proposed for Consideration

I ask for your support for the inclusion of the following item on the agenda of the earliest available meeting of the Governance Committee:

I respectfully ask for your concurrence in requestion an analysis of a policy that would ensure, to the best of Staff's ability, that no apparel, garments, or corresponding accessories, equipment, materials or supplies furnished to the City of San Antonio pursuant to purchasing contracts have been laundered or produced in whole or in part by sweatshop labor, forced labor, abusive forms of child labor or exploitation of children in sweatshop labor, or with the benefit of sweatshop labor, forced labor, abusive forms of child labor or exploitation of children in sweatshop labor.

The purpose of this request is to encourage responsible contracting and to seek ways of eliminating the City of San Antonio's inadvertent support of those vendors using illegal sweatshop labor.

As a City, it is our responsibility to have a positive impact on the working conditions that our purchasing power supports. In addition, we recognize the rights of citizens to know how their tax dollars are spent and seek to assure that the taxpayers' dollars are not paid to vendors who engage in illegal or abusive sweatshop practices that violate the most basic human labor rights.

Brief Background

The Department of Labor defines a work place as a sweatshop if it violates two or more of the most basic labor laws including child labor, minimum wage, overtime and fire safety laws. Sweatshop workers report horrible working conditions including sub-minimum wages, no benefits, non-payment of wages, forced overtime, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, corporal punishment, and illegal firings.

Options to consider in a feasibility analysis should include, but need not be limited to:

1. Recordkeeping requirements, which may include:

- a) Inclusion of an affidavit in every contract wherein the vendor agrees that working conditions are free of sweatshop practices;
- b) Obtaining information which may include payroll standards, health benefits, normal working hours per day and week, overtime policy and other information that Staff deems necessary and proper to ensure that working conditions are free of sweatshop practices.

2. Compliance and Verification methods.

3. Enforcement and Penalty provisions, which may include:

- a) Remediation plans on a finding of violation; and
- b) Sanctions such as fines and/or termination of contracts.

This request should not be interpreted to attempt to preclude the City of San Antonio or its vendors from doing business with companies that have operations in foreign countries.

Submitted for Council consideration
by:

Mary Alice P. Cisneros

Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros, District 1

Supporting Councilmembers' Signatures (4 only)	District No.
1. <i>Philip A. Cortez (T.O.S)</i>	<u>4</u>
2. <i>Shula McNeil (for discussion)</i>	<u>2</u>
3. <i>Jaime Rodriguez</i>	<u>7</u>
4. <i>[Signature] En Discusion</i>	<u>10</u>