

RESOLUTION NO. 381

ESTABLISHING A COUNTY PURCHASING POLICY GIVING PRIORITY TO BIDDERS FOR APPAREL AND TEXTILES WHO COMPLY WITH CHILD LABOR, WAGE AND HOUR AND WORKPLACE SAFETY LAWS

Introduced: 9/10/07

By Mss. Maffia-Tobler, Connolly, Messrs. Shafer, Domalewicz, McCoy, Aidala, Aylward, Beston, Burke, Clay, Clenahan, Collins, Commisso, Cotrofeld, Dawson, Ethier, Gordon, Horstmyer, Houghtaling, Infante, Joyce, Mayo, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Monjeau, Morse, Nichols, Reilly, Riddick, Steck, Ward, Mss. Wiley and Willingham:

WHEREAS, This Honorable Body believes Albany County should take steps to ensure that tax dollars do not subsidize sweatshops or manufacturers in this country or abroad who violate child labor laws, engage in unfair labor practices or subject workers to occupational hazards regarding the purchase of apparel or textiles, and

WHEREAS, This Honorable Body previously demonstrated its concern through approval of Resolution No. 404-a for 1997, directing the County Purchasing Agent to develop and maintain a policy of evaluating producers and suppliers of clothing and textiles concerning the working conditions under which the goods are manufactured to determine that Albany County does not purchase clothing and textiles produced under sweatshop conditions, and

WHEREAS, The State of New York has given municipalities authority under the State Finance law to incorporate language in bid specifications for the purchase of apparel or textiles that gives priority to bidders who provide documentation that the goods were manufactured in compliance with child labor, wage and hour and workplace safety laws, along with the identities or subcontractors and manufacturing plants, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the County of Albany establishes a County purchasing policy giving priority to bidders for apparel and textiles who comply with child labor, wage and hour and workplace safety laws, and, be it further

RESOLVED, The definition for "apparel" or "textiles" shall mean all articles of clothing, cloth or goods produced by weaving, knitting or felting or any similar production processes for such articles, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a statement shall be included in bid specifications that the County shall not enter into a contract to purchase apparel or textiles from a bidder unable or unwilling to provide documentation as part of its bid attesting that the goods were manufactured in compliance with all applicable labor and occupational safety laws; stating if known the name and address of each subcontractor utilized in the production of the goods and stating, if known, all manufacturing plants utilized by the bidder or subcontractor, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the County Purchasing Agent and to other appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote. 9/10/07