

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(1)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: May 19, 2009

TITLE: Request for Information – Purchasing Specifications Concerning Anti-Sweatshop Requirements in Purchasing or Renting Apparel or Textiles

DEPARTMENT: Management Services	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>x</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Recent Bill Information Submitted to Board by Ellie Kinnaird B. Original Bill Approved in 2000	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Bing Roenigk, 918-7439 Sandy Svoboda, 918-7302 Mike Brough, 929-3905

PURPOSE: The Board of Aldermen, at its May 5, 2009 board meeting, requested whether Carrboro could be added to the bill under consideration in the General Assembly for the City of Durham to restrict apparel or textile purchases or rentals to companies that can verify that manufacturing practices exclude sweatshop labor. The Board is requested to provide direction on future action regarding this request.

INFORMATION: The Board asked staff to review the current Durham ordinance and proposed anti-sweatshop local bill for applicability to Carrboro. The original bill, approved in June 2000, allows the City of Durham to establish, agree to, and comply with anti-sweatshop requirements by including the requirements in the specification for contracts to purchase or rent apparel or textiles for bids pursuant to G.S. 143-129 (formal bid \$90,000 and above) and G.S. 143-131 (informal bid \$30,000 up to formal limit). These requirements may be considered along with other specifications in determining the lowest responsive bidder. The anti-sweatshop requirements are written in detail in the bill. The more recent bill submitted March 11, 2009 to the Senate updates the City Charter to reflect the bill that was passed in 2000.

Staff, in reviewing the City of Durham's current ordinance and applicable state legislation, finds that town purchasing and rental costs for uniforms are all below the informal bid threshold (\$30,000) that is referenced by G.S. 143-131 in the Durham bill. Rep. Verla Insko indicates this bill will need to go through two committees and believes there is time to submit a request if desired.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT: No fiscal impact is anticipated as the Town does not currently meet the informal bid limit for apparel and textile purchases.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Provide feedback and direction for future action, if desired.