



# HOUSTON PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION LOCAL 341

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JEFFREY A. CAYNON  
PRESIDENT

MANUEL CHAVEZ  
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

GEORGE L. FRESS  
COMMUNICATION  
DIRECTOR

May 26, 2010

Mayor Annise D. Parker  
City of Houston  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, TX 77251

Re: Sweat Free Houston's campaign for a "sweat free" ordinance / procurement policy

Dear Mayor Parker,

We write today to show our support for Sweat Free Houston's campaign to get the City of Houston to pass a sweat free ordinance. Because we represent city workers, we have a direct stake in this matter.

The model ordinance being proposed by Sweat Free Houston ensures that vendors selling apparel to the City of Houston do not use sweatshops in their supply chain. Sweatshops violate both domestic law and internationally recognized labor rights and human rights. Sweatshop conditions include below subsistence wages, excessively long working hours and unhealthy and unsafe working environments. The ordinance will ensure that production facilities shall not harass or abuse workers, workers will have freedom of association and production facilities will not discriminate in employment-including in hiring, salary, benefits, advancement, discipline, termination, retirement, or any other term or condition of employment.

As you know, the City of Houston uses taxpayers dollars to purchase apparel from vendors who are using sweatshops in their supply chain, therefore the City of Houston is using our tax dollars to subsidize sweatshops. We strongly believe that the City of Houston should demonstrate leadership by passing the sweat free procurement ordinance proposed by the Sweat Free Houston Coalition. A copy of the ordinance we are supporting can be found here: <http://sweatfreehouston.wordpress.com/the-ordinance/>

As of May 2010, nine states, 39 cities, 115 school districts and 15 counties have already passed similar policies or ordinances. As the nation's fourth largest city, Houston should take the lead and become the 40<sup>th</sup> sweat free city in the nation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Caynon  
President  
HPFFA, Local 341

cc: Sweat Free Houston