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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES SWEATSHOP-FREE PROCUREMENT ORDINANCE

City Council today passed an ordinance put forward by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Alderman Ameya Pawar, Chicago Fair Trade and the City Council's Asian-American and Latino Caucuses which will prohibit contractors manufacturing city uniforms and garments to use sweatshop labor.

"As a world class city, it is crucial for Chicago to be a leader in the fight for human rights here at home and across the world," said Mayor Emanuel. "I am proud to stand with Alderman Pawar and the Asian-American and Latino Caucuses in the fight against child labor. With this ordinance, will continue to ensure the City of Chicago is doing business in an ethical and humane way."

Under the new ordinance, all contracted garment vendors and sub-contractors with the City of Chicago must sign affidavits stating there are no sweatshops within their supply chain. If the contractor fails to comply to disclose this information with the City, the chief procurement officer will determine the contract is in default.

"Our city workers should be wearing uniforms that reflect our values as a City," said Alderman Ameya Pawar. "By banning products made in inhumane sweatshops, this ordinance will emphasize our city's commitment to human rights."

The chief procurement officer will notify the contractor of noncompliance and take appropriate action. The officer may allow contractor to have 30 days to remove sweatshops from their supply chain; terminate the contract; or terminate the contract and rebid the remaining contract amount.

This ordinance will take effect on January 1, 2015.

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