

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF LABOR STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT
PATRICK MULLIGAN, DIRECTOR



SWEATFREE PROCUREMENT ADVISORY GROUP
Minutes from June 25, 2025, meeting, 1:00 pm

Members Present: Conchita Lozano Batista, Jason Oringer, Julie Fisher, John Logan, Coyote Marin

Members Absent: Samuel Thomas

City Staff Present: Hallie Albert, Pat Mulligan

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Meeting agenda adopted without opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The group is a sparkle in the eye of San Francisco in making San Francisco show the better part of what we are doing. I am happy with what Sweatfree does and there needs to be more if it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of May 8, 2025, were reviewed and adopted as written without opposition.

DISCUSSION OF OPEN FOR BUSINESS CONTRACT STREAMLINING ACT OF 2025

Conchita Lozano Batista described her interaction with Supervisor Mandelman the prior Sunday. She described how he is inclined to propose that the sweatfree contracting ordinance remains and the WRC contract stay, but the advisory group is disbanded. Sup. Mandelman believes OLSE can do the work and there is a better way to reframe the group, like creating an entity with a procurement focus which has a person sitting on the group representing sweatfree interests. Lozano Batista is not certain what this group will look like or how she feels about it, but there is a possibility to do this. She raised the difficulty in attracting people to join the group and how elected officials are not making efforts to recruit. Lozano Batista told Sup. Mandelman that the group was meeting this week and would discuss the proposed legislation and circle back to him. She then asked the group how they feel about the legislation.

John Logan stated he is opposed to abolishing the group and Lozano Batista confirmed she is also opposed and does not believe one person representing sweatfree interests can yield the diversity of opinion and thought that the group can. Coyote Marin shared that the legislation does not seem to understand how procurement works.

Logan inquired about the motivation for the abolishment of the group. Is this the new Mayor trying to cut costs and looking for efficiencies? It does not seem logical to target this group as it takes limited staff time and the group is unpaid.

Pat Mulligan spoke about OLSE's role. He clarified that OLSE has no part in the legislation and is not a policy advocacy office. He explained that the legislation emerged separately from the Mayor. Rather, the Office of Contracting Administration and Supervisor Mandelman developed this initiative focused on streamlining contracting. There is a policy body which regularly convenes to explore a grand jury report which listed the SPAG for dissolution. Hallie Albert explained that the advisory body contacted her to fill out a spreadsheet regarding OLSE's use of time and resources on administering the group.

Jason Oringer read the grand jury report, which connects to the ballot propositions about eliminating commissions and groups. The process seems haphazard and overlapping and if the goal is to increase efficiency, then they need to look at the resources used. There is no overlap with the work SPAG does and the legislation does not consider the cost of putting the oversight work on OLSE.

Mulligan spoke about how OLSE has strong metrics and is overperforming, so this is not about OLSE's resources. This is happening on the contracting side. He explained how the legislation also impacts other laws within OLSE's jurisdiction to enforce due to overlapping state laws. This legislation is being driven by the interest in streamlining City contracting, and it remains to be seen what the benefit will be, which is a separate discussion.

Lozano Batista asked if the goal is to streamline contracting, wouldn't the board cut OLSE's enforcement resources because OLSE goes after contractors? But that is not happening and OLSE's budget is not impacted. It shows the board is interested in continuing to protect workers and that interest would seemingly flow to workers manufacturing the City's uniforms. Therefore, it appears the interest in eliminating the group is just to make a showing of efficiency.

Marin spoke with Mission Local and the editor believes it is clear Sup. Mandelman does not know what he is doing. They raised concern about the changes the proposed legislation makes to the ordinance and what the group wants to focus on: dissolving the group or the changes to the ordinance or both? A discussion ensued about the focus of the group's advocacy and tactics it should use. Discussion about the letters submitted (Oringer will provide copies to Albert to circulate to the group) and how to meet with Sup. Mandelman.

Lozano Batista said they should highlight that the SPAG helps OLSE and OCA and OCA does not object to the group. Julie Fisher said she believes Kim from the Labor Council spoke with Supervisor Mandelman and the council's next meeting is July 14. Lozano Batista proposed writing another letter summarizing her meeting with Supervisor Mandelman last weekend and the need to maintain the SPAG – costs are minimal, the group assists agencies and had success in getting a better standard contract and created economies of scale with co-monitoring with Los Angeles. Then the letter will ask him to meet with the group. Marin proposed they demand Supervisor Mandelman drops the part of the bill impacting the sweatfree contracting ordinance and meet with the group. The first letter sent outlined the value of the group and did not change his mind. Logan said the second letter should be more specific about the ways the SPAG is productive and submitted along with letters from Labor groups and they should approach media.

Marin reached out to Frank Skubal (Banner) as a private individual about the proposed legislation not applying to sub-contractors. Skubal said thank you, but not sure if he did anything. Marin believes it is important to highlight how the changes are problematic and can harm Banner and raise the City's costs. Logan spoke about how brands agree to monitoring to avoid reputational damage and abolishing the SPAG will create a danger of stories coming out about San Francisco using manufacturers who use sweatshop labor. The risk of reputational damage should be highlighted.

A discussion ensued about who should receive the letter and how to utilize Supervisor Mandelman's political aspirations to reach him. Lozano Batista will contact Senator Scott Weiner. Marin will conduct an analysis of the proposed legislation, distilling the major changes, and send to Lozano Batista. Logan warned not to get too in the weeds and Marin wants to highlight how it is a hack job and will not accomplish the purported goals. Lozano Batista will call Ramone Hernandez from Local 261 to discuss and she will draft and send a second letter to Sup. Mandelman and copy Albert to share with the group. Oringer will seek to speak with supervisors.

POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

The group will plan to meet on July 3, 2025, at 1pm and invite Supervisor Mandelman to the meeting. Albert will post the Agenda and Minutes in anticipation of the meeting, and if Mandelman cannot attend they will cancel. Mulligan said he is not available on July 3, but everyone else is available.