SWEATFREE PROCUREMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)
Minutes from October 8, 2026, meeting, 2:00 pm

Members Present: Julie Fisher, Coyote Marin, Samuel Thomas, Jason Oringer, Ayesha Barenblat, Marliz Copado, Rio Morales
Members Excused: Ernie Flores
City Staff Present: Hallie Albert, Pat Mulligan, Shawn Peeters, Sailaja Kurella, Abtin Forghani
WRC Present: Ben Hensler

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Change Introductions to the second item and with that change, agenda was adopted.

INTRODUCTIONS
Everyone provided a brief introduction.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
Tim Newman from Tech Equity spoke about the group's research on tech's impact on labor. He noted how at the May 2026 meeting, the SPAC expressed interest in a report on AI workers and the harms caused in content moderation and data. Newman thanked the group for considering expanding the ordinance and noted he is available as a resource. Other jurisdictions are exploring expanding their ordinances and he hopes San Francisco will be a leader, since it is the hub of AI.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Reviewed by members. Fix misspelling of "corporeal" to "corporal." Adopted with the change.

WRC REPORT
Ben Hensler reviewed WRC's work for the City and County of San Francisco and its current investigations.

- Ethiopia – Hirdaramani – Conditions at the factory have improved through the actions of WRC, worker protests, and NGO training, but the factory is still in violation. Worker wages remain below the non-poverty wage rate and the unit price paid to the factory would need to increase to result in workers getting higher wages.

  A discussion ensued about San Mar's unit price and the City's ability to procure this information. It was moved, seconded and carried to ask OCA, if permissible by law, to collect the tier two supplier pricing information to assess San Mar's unit pricing at this factory.

- Bangladesh – Very poor factory condition for gender/sex harassment regarding demeaning women to increase productivity. Corporal punishment involved forcing women to stand for

an hour in front of everyone if they took a sick day. Hensler is optimistic about changing the culture at the factory if they can compel a change in management.

- Thailand and Nicaragua – working on remediation.

Samuel Thomas inquired about the origin and structure of the contracting relationship typically found in the garment supply chain. Hensler reviewed the history of NYC garment manufacturing and the change to using globalized factories competing in a buyer's market. A factory can expand its margins by underpaying workers but cannot control the material and distribution costs. For San Francisco, there is the extra layer in the supply chain of vendors who directly contract with the City and have little leverage with the suppliers or factories.

Ayesha Barenblat inquired about the City prioritizing Los Angeles factories for the manufacture of city garments. Jason Oringer reviewed the history of the SPAC's consideration of localized manufacturing. Hallie Albert discussed the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium's work on a designated factory list in LA. Marliz Copado raised questions about sole source contracts and re-bidding contracts to open them to new suppliers. Coyote Marin reviewed the historical challenges to finding more suppliers.

OCA REPORT

Marin asked for OCA's assessment of the City's annual expenditure on electronics and AI. Shawn Peeters explained that the group's ask was too vague and he cannot pull data without more specificity. He asked the SPAC to clearly define its focus.

Discussion followed about what the tech-market-place vendors supply and a review of the three prongs the SPAC must meet to support expansion of the ordinance to other goods. The group discussed narrowing the request to OCA for data on printed circuit boards and Abtin Forghani explained that such boards are in cell phones, fire trucks, air conditioners, smart furniture and many other items so a narrower search parameter is needed.

Rio Morales raised the obstacles to proposing an expansion of the ordinance and the importance of first exploring the compliance infrastructure that exists. Barenblat asked about getting a report on the top 20 items the City spends on. Albert read the list of products Electronics Watch covers.

Pat Mulligan stated that OCA has discretion on how and what they want to do and the group should be sensitive to the relationship. Marin asked about making a records request and meeting with Peeters to try to narrow down the request. Mulligan said the body would provide a recommendation and OLSE will facilitate. Hensler pointed to the second prong and suggested looking at published reports on sweatshop violations pertaining to specific goods. Barenblat addressed the limited number of suppliers for certain products, like FOXCON for cell phones, and the lack of leverage to compel change because of a lack of alternative suppliers.

Discussion ensued about how to move forward and what the best approach will be. Barenblat moved to request a report from OCA on the top 10 consumer products the City spends on with the supplier information for each of those products. The motion was seconded and carried

unanimously. The group asked OCA to aim to get both reports to SPAC by December to review prior to next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF BYLAWS AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Albert briefly reviewed the bylaws and the required updates and proposed changes. She will draft a redline of the proposed changes and present the draft to the group at the January meeting.

POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

January meeting – Review the updates to the bylaws, Election of Officers (Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson), Discussion on focus of the group.