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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Tony Zielinski
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MATC MIRRORS CITY'S SWEAT-FREE ORDINANCE

*Movement Continues To Encourage More Communities
To Follow Suit*

Ald. Tony Zielinski (District 14) is pleased with the announcement that Milwaukee Area Technical College has recently passed a “sweat free” responsible manufacturing procurement policy very similar to that of the City of Milwaukee’s. “The more government entities that insist on responsible manufacturing practices that promise fair wages and positive working conditions, the more influence we have in changing the conditions of the labor field,” Ald. Zielinski said.

The legislation accomplishes two things. First, according to Ald. Zielinski, “it creates a level playing field for American manufacturers. It encourages buying American made goods instead of goods made with cheap labor overseas.” Second, the policy prevents the exploitation of workers for economic gain.

Key to the MATC policy is attention to manufacturers who can ensure they provide a safe, non-discriminatory work environment and who compensate their employees with non-poverty wages. MATC Board member Peter Earle who co-sponsored the policy with Fred Royal, said, “MATC, like the City of Milwaukee, has a lot of purchasing power. When we insist on fair working conditions, we prompt a change in manufacturing that benefits not only workers worldwide, but also levels the playing field so American industries with fair wages can compete in the marketplace.”

-More-

MATC Follows City/ADD ONE

Much like the city's ordinance, sponsored by Ald. Zielinski, the MATC policy will set forth the responsible practices rules for purchases like apparel, supplies and equipment and both contractors and subcontractors are measured by the ordinance's standards of fair wages, good working conditions and employee termination supported by just cause.

"I shared this legislation with other major cities hoping they will follow our lead. That MATC has joined in this crusade further emphasizes the kind of example the government entities in the Milwaukee area can set," Ald. Zielinski said.

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