



**City
of**

Milwaukee

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

MEMO

To: Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
From: Amy E. Hefter, Legislative Research Analyst
Date: 6/14/2005
Subject: Slavery disclosure laws

Attached are the results for your request regarding information on slavery disclosure laws. The cities of Los Angeles (CA), Chicago (IL), Detroit (MI) and Philadelphia (PA) have passed slavery disclosure ordinances. The states of California, Illinois and Iowa have also passed legislation regarding disclosure of slaveholder insurance information from insurance companies licensed to do business in each respective state. The states of California and Illinois passed legislation that required the reporting of such information, whereas Iowa requested it.

The City of Chicago was the first municipality to pass a slavery disclosure ordinance on October 2, 2002. The Chicago ordinance requires that all businesses seeking city contracts provide affidavits disclosing whether they have profited from slavery. Businesses must also provide research documentation, and if the affidavits are found to be inaccurate, the contracts may be nullified. Detroit and Philadelphia passed similar slavery era disclosure ordinances on June 23, 2004 and March 17, 2005 respectively.

The Los Angeles slavery era disclosure ordinance was passed June 27, 2003. The ordinance differs from Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia in that Los Angeles requires companies that do business with the city to report whether they have profited from slavery. It does not penalize companies that decline to disclose their pasts. Companies with slavery in their past are not barred from doing business with the city. The law requires companies to research their records and provide affidavits stating whether or not their predecessors profited from slavery. The law makes no provision for investigating a company's disclosure for accuracy.

Through the passage of the afore mentioned ordinances the following companies have disclosed ties to slavery: JP Morgan Chase/Bank One (finance), Bank of America/FleetBoston (finance), Norfolk Southern Railway Co. (railroad), Union Pacific Railroad (railroad), CSX Transportation,

Inc. (railroad), R. J. Reynolds (tobacco), Brown & Williamson (tobacco), WestPoint Stevens (textile), Lehman Brothers (finance) and Wachovia Corporation (finance).

California statute required the state insurance commissioner to obtain information from licensed insurance companies in California regarding any records of slaveholder policies. This included all life insurers and property and casualty insurers that were licensed to do business in California. The insurers were required to submit information via electronic format concerning the company's involvement with slavery era insurance policies. In May 2002, the California Department of Insurance issued a report to the California Legislature concerning its findings.

House Bill 2379, Slavery Era Policies, was passed by the Illinois Legislature in 2003 and signed into law on July 24, 2003. The law became effective on January 1, 2004. The Act required any insurer licensed and doing business in Illinois to research and report to the Division of Insurance information regarding policies issued to slaveholders for death or damage to their slaves that the company wrote either directly or through a predecessor corporation during the slavery era. Information specifically required by the Act includes the names of the slaves and the names of the slaveholders. Insurers were asked to advise the Division of Insurance whether or not such information was found and to provide research methodology used. In August 2004, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Division of Insurance issued a report concerning its findings.

On March 13, 2003, the Iowa House of Representatives adopted House Resolution 29. The resolution urged the Iowa Insurance Commissioner to request slaveholder insurance policy records from the archives of Iowa licensed insurance companies, including subsidiaries of international insurance corporations. Since insurance companies doing business in the state of Illinois were required to report information about slavery era insurance policies at the same time the Iowa Insurance Division was seeking similar information, the Iowa Insurance Division decided to request information from those insurance companies doing business in Iowa, but not doing business in Illinois. The Illinois Insurance Division and the California Department of Insurance shared their findings and information with the Iowa Insurance Division. In December 2004 the Iowa Commissioner of Insurance reported the findings to the Iowa General Assembly.

The California Department of Insurance responses mirrored those of Illinois and Iowa. According to California, the following insurers found records of insurance policies issued during the slavery era; ACE USA, Aetna Life Insurance Company, New York Life Insurance Company, AIG (United States Life Insurance Company of New York), Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, Providence Washington Insurance Company, Manhattan Life Insurance Company, and Royal & Sun Alliance.

Slavery Disclosure Laws				
Location	Type	Passage	Effective	Title
State of California	Statute	September 2000	10/13/2001	Slavery Era Insurance Policies
State of Illinois	Statute	07/24/2003	01/01/2004	Slavery Era Insurance Policies
State of Iowa	Resolution	03/13/2003	03/13/2003	Slavery Era Insurance
Los Angeles, CA	Ordinance	06/27/2003	10/15/2003	Slavery Disclosure Ordinance
Detroit, MI	Ordinance	06/23/2004	07/19/2004	Slavery Era Records And Insurance Disclosure Ordinance
Philadelphia	Ordinance	03/17/2005	90 days from date of passage	Business, Corporate and Slavery Era Insurance Ordinance
Chicago, IL	Ordinance	10/02/2002	90 days from date of passage	Slavery Era Business/Corporate Insurance Disclosure

Companies who have disclosed ties to slavery:

ACE USA (insurance)
Aetna Life Insurance Company (insurance)
AIG (insurance)
Manhattan Life Insurance Company (insurance)
New York Life (insurance)
Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company (insurance)
Providence Washington Insurance Company (insurance)
Royal & Sun Alliance (insurance)
JP Morgan Chase/Bank One (finance)
Bank of America/FleetBoston (finance)
Norfolk Southern Railway Co. (railroad)
Union Pacific Railroad (railroad)
CSX Transportation, Inc. (railroad)
R. J. Reynolds (tobacco)
Brown & Williamson (tobacco)
WestPoint Stevens (textile)
Lehman Brothers (finance)
Wachovia Corporation (finance)

I hope this information will prove useful to you. Please feel free to contact me at x2290 with any questions for further data.

LRB05120