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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Initial Meeting of Convenience Store Working Group

(January 11, 2012) The initial meeting of the Convenience Store Working Group took place Wednesday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Indiana Government Center South.

The group received its mission from Commissioner of Labor Lori Torres, and then got down to the business of planning how the group would accomplish that mission.

In addition to the Working Group members, attendees included representatives from:

Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor
Indiana Department of Labor
Kocolene Marketing, LLC
Circle K Stores, Inc.
VPS Convenience Store Group (Village Pantry)
Richmond-Master Distributors, Inc.
Speedway

The group agreed that the mission of the Convenience Store Working Group is to facilitate the adoption and use of industry best practices for promoting worker safety and workplace violence prevention in late night retail stores.

With this mission in mind, the group developed the following four objectives of their work:

1. To identify a consensus for agreed upon best practices
2. To gain an industry commitment to implement appropriate best practices at each unique store
3. To gain the commitment of both Department of Labor and industry organizations to continued support of workplace violence prevention through education and training outreach to employees and employers
4. To develop a long term method for outreach and training, continuous improvement of best practices and periodic review of worker safety in late night retail stores

The group extensively discussed and shared industry best practices in late night retail stores. The Department of Labor agreed to develop workplace education and training outreach programs specific to the late night retail store industry. At the next meeting industry representatives and the Department of Labor will each present proposals for action for public input and comment.



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The group will conduct a public meeting tentatively set for February 16 to invite further comment and welcome the input of others. This meeting will be open to the public and media. Further information on location and time will be provided by early February.

Finally, the group expects to agree to complete a comprehensive plan of action by the end of April 2012. This plan will be made public.

“The working group made significant progress toward establishing a plan of action to improve worker safety and violence prevention in late night retail stores in Indiana. I am impressed with the willingness of the industry to work together to actively participate in this process and look forward to a plan of action that will benefit Indiana workers in this industry,” noted Lori A. Torres, Commissioner of Labor. Participating in the Working Group are:

- Lori A. Torres, Commissioner of Labor
- Jeffry Carter, Deputy Commissioner of Labor for IOSHA
- Michelle Ellison, Director, INSafe
- Scot Imus, Executive Director, Indiana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association
- Grant Monahan, President, The Indiana Retail Council (unable to attend this meeting)
- Joe Lackey, President, Indiana Grocery & Convenience Store Association, Inc.
- Sergeant Rod Russell, Indiana State Police

A copy of the agenda for today’s Working Group meeting is attached.

About the Indiana Department of Labor:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and compliance assistance by employers. www.in.gov/dol.

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Indiana

Department of Labor

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Convenience Store Working Group

January 11, 2012

Agenda

Chair: Lori A. Torres, Indiana Commissioner of Labor

- I. Introduction and background
- II. Introduction of participants
- III. Mission – To facilitate the adoption and use of industry best practices for promoting worker safety and work place violence prevention in 24 hour convenience stores.
- IV. Objectives
 - A. Identify a consensus for agreed upon best practices.
 - B. Gain an industry commitment to implement appropriate best practices at each unique store.
 - C. Department of Labor and the industry organizations commit to continued support of workplace violence prevention through education and training outreach to employees and employers.
 - D. Develop a long term method for outreach and training, continuous improvement of best practices and periodic review of worker safety in retail convenience stores.
- V. Issues – Contributions and Expertise of each attendee
 - A. Retail Violence – Jeff Carter and Tim Koponen
 - B. Best Practices – Ann Williams and Sgt. Rod Russell
 - C. Industry Attendees
 - D. Definition of “convenience stores”/parameters of coverage
 - E. Other Proposals
- VI. Potential Solutions
 - A. Alliance – Michelle Ellison
 - B. Hazard Analysis – DOL staff
 - C. Industry input
- VII. Next Steps
 - A. Next Meeting in February – Attendees, content, format
 - B. Points for media advisory to be released following today’s meeting
 - C. Final Report to be issued April/May
 1. Summarizing activities
 2. Listing of best practice considerations
 3. Future interaction between DOL and industry
 - D. Long Term Relationship – alliance, training, etc.

Adjourn