

RESOLUTION NO. 77-2012(PSH)

By Council Member Stein

A Resolution opposing the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* regarding the constitutional rights of corporations; supporting an amendment to the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditures of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech; calling on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

WHEREAS, in 2012 the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Citizen United v. Federal Election Commission*, holding that independent spending on elections by corporations could not be limited by government regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Court's decision in *Citizens United* severely hampers the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

WHEREAS, corporations should not be afforded the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, such that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is a form of constitutionally protected speech.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council opposes the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission* regarding the constitutional rights of corporations and supports amending the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, and hereby calls on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

SECTION 2. A copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, and House Representative Marcia Fudge.

SECTION 3. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time allowed by law.

EDWARD J. KELLEY, Mayor
President of the Council

TOM RAGUZ
Acting Clerk of Council

PASSED: June 18, 2012