

RESOLUTION NO. 15R-2495

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THAT ONLY HUMAN BEINGS, NOT CORPORATIONS, ARE ENDOWED WITH CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND THAT MONEY IS NOT SPEECH, AND THEREFORE REGULATING POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPENDING IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO LIMITING POLITICAL SPEECH; PROVIDING FOR READING BY TITLE ONLY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, government of, by and for the people has long been a cherished American value; and,

WHEREAS, the fundamental and inalienable right to self govern and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed to the people in the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; and,

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self governance; and,

WHEREAS, people are rightfully recognized as human beings whose essential needs include clean air, clean water, safe and secure food; and,

WHEREAS, corporations are entirely human-made legal fictions created by express permission of the people and our government; and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and the people have never granted constitutional rights to corporations nor have the people decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of the people of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, corporations are not and have never been human beings and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and,

WHEREAS, the Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission Supreme Court decision that rolled back the legal limits on corporate spending in the electoral process creates an unequal playing field and allows unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection, policy decisions and sway votes and forces elected officials to divert their attention from the peoples' business; and,

WHEREAS, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech since money is not the equivalent of speech; and,

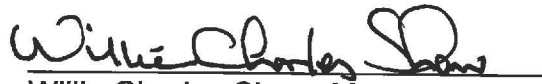
WHEREAS, people and local governments across the nation are joining to call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to establish that corporations are not people and money is not speech.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA:


Section 1. That the City of Sarasota, Florida supports an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to establish that only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights and that money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

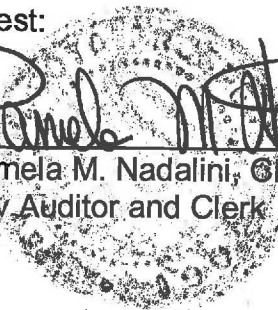
ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Sarasota, Florida upon reading by title only, after posting on the bulletin board at City Hall for at least three (3) days prior to adoption, as authorized by Article IV, Section 2 of the Charter of the City of Sarasota this 15th day of June, 2015.

CITY OF SARASOTA


Willie Charles Shaw, Mayor

Attest:


Pamela M. Nadalini, CMC, MBA
City Auditor and Clerk



Yes Willie Charles Shaw, Mayor
Yes Suzanne Atwell, Vice Mayor
Yes Commissioner Liz Alpert
Yes Commissioner Susan Chapman
Yes Commissioner Shelli Freeland Eddie