

CITY OF OJAI

RESOLUTION NO. 12-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA
CALLING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
ABOLISHING CORPORATE PERSONHOOD**

WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and We The People's fundamental and inalienable right to self-govern, and thereby secure rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness is guaranteed 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, persons 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 We The People and our government; and

WHEREAS, corporations can exist in perpetuity, can exist simultaneously in many nations at once, need only profit for survival, and exist solely through the legal charter imposed by the government of We The People; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these advantages, the great wealth of large corporations allows them to wield coercive force of law to overpower human beings and communities, thus denying We The People's exercise of our Constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, interpretation of the US Constitution by appointed Supreme Court justices to include corporations in the term 'persons' has long denied We The Peoples' exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended for We The People; and

WHEREAS, the illegitimate judicial bestowal of civil and political rights upon corporations usurps basic human and Constitutional rights guaranteed to human persons, and also empowers corporations to sue municipal and state governments for adopting laws that violate 'corporate rights' even when those laws serve to protect and defend the rights of human persons and communities; 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, large corporations' profits and survival are often in direct conflict with the essential needs and rights of human beings; and

WHEREAS, the recent *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, or even vote against the interest of their human constituents, in order to ensure competitive campaign funds for their own re-election; and

WHEREAS, large corporations own most of America's mass media and use that media as a megaphone to express loudly their political agenda and to convince Americans that their primary role is that of consumers, rather than sovereign citizens with rights and responsibilities within our democracy, and this forces citizens to toil to discern the truth behind headlines and election campaigning; and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of people and municipalities across the nation are joining with the move to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to abolish Corporate Personhood.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA,
DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND ORDER, AS FOLLOWS**

SECTION 1. To call on our elected federal representatives to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the country in the move to call for an Amendment to the Constitution to abolish Corporate Personhood and return our democracy, our elections, our communities back to America's human persons and to thus reclaim our sovereign right to self-governance.

SECTION 2. To call on other communities and jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar Resolutions.

SECTION 3. To support education to increase public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by Corporate Personhood.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 13th day of March, 2012 by the following vote:

AYES: Blatz, Clapp, Smith, Strobel
NOES: Horgan
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CITY OF OJAI

Betsy Clapp, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda K. Basore, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Joseph W. Fletcher, City Attorney