CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-11

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Bushee
Councilor Calvert

A RESOLUTION
JOINING THE MOVE TO AMEND CAMPAIGN AND SUPPORTING THE CALL FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION TO ABOLISH CORPORATE PERSONHOOD.

WHEREAS, Move to Amend is a coalition supported by hundreds of organizations and tens of thousands of individuals dedicated to ending the illegitimate legal doctrines that prevent the American people from governing themselves; and

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 US 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, corporations are not mentioned in the Constitution, and The People have never granted constitutional rights to corporations, nor have We decreed that corporations have authority that exceeds the authority of We The People of the United States; 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 Amend campaign to call for an Amendment to the US Constitution to Abolish
Corporate Personhood.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CITY OF SANTA FE that the City of Santa Fe hereby joins and supports the Move to Amend
campaign to call for an amendment to the United States Constitution to abolish corporate personhood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Santa Fe calls on our Congressional and
Legislative delegations and County Commissioners to join the tens of thousands of citizens,
grassroots organizations and local governments across the country in the Move to Amend campaign 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Santa Fe calls on other communities and
jurisdictions to join with us in this action by passing similar resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Santa Fe supports education to increase
public awareness of the threats to our democracy posed by Corporate Personhood, and encourages
lively discussion to build understanding and consensus to take appropriate community and municipal
actions to democratically respond to these threats.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this
resolution to the *Move to Amend* Coalition, Santa Fe’s Federal Congressional Delegation, State
Legislative Delegation and the Board of County Commissioners.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 11th day of January, 2012.

DAVID COSS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY

*CAO/M/Melissa/Resolutions 2012/2012-11 Move to Amend Constitution*