

**RESOLUTION R16-716**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ANNA MARIA, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THAT ONLY HUMAN BEINGS, NOT CORPORATIONS, UNIONS, AND OTHER ARTIFICIAL ENTITIES, 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.**

**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, unions and other artificial entities 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;

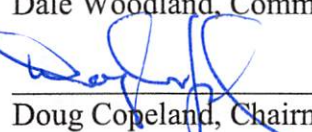
**WHEREAS**, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech, since money is not the equivalent of speech, and;

**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**, that the City of Anna Maria, Florida, supports an amendment to the Constitution to establish that only human beings, not corporations, unions and other artificial entities 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.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED**, by the City Commission of the City of Anna Maria, Florida, in regular session assembled, this 10 day of March, 2016.

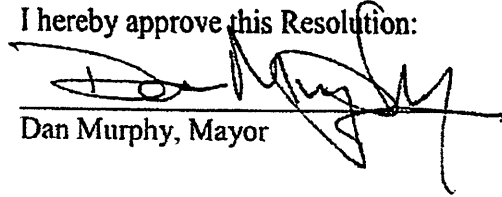
Doug Copeland, Commissioner  
Nancy Yetter, Commissioner  
Charles Webb, Commissioner  
Carol Carter, Commissioner  
Dale Woodland, Commissioner



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Doug Copeland, Chairman

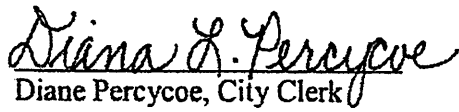
I hereby approve this Resolution:



Dan Murphy, Mayor

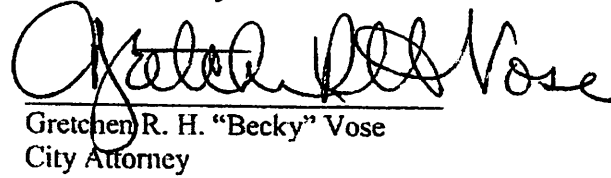
03-31, 2016

ATTEST:



Diane Percycoc, City Clerk

Approved as to form and legality for  
the use and reliance of the City of  
Anna Maria only



Gretchen R. H. "Becky" Vose  
City Attorney