

INTRODUCED BY:
Minority Leader Larry Deutsch
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COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL
City of Hartford, May 9, 2012

WHEREAS, the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in *Citizens United v. the Federal Election Commission* rolled back legal restrictions on corporate spending in the electoral process, allowing unlimited corporate spending in electoral campaigns, ballot questions and referendum movements; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Buckley v. Valeo* established a principle, not enumerated in the constitution, that money is a form of speech; and

WHEREAS, already within the State of Connecticut corporations have garnered the right to vote in two municipal tax districts, and are thus exceeding the enumerated rights provided in the Connecticut and US Constitutions, which grant only US citizens the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, money affects the quality and quantity of speech and is NOT, in itself, speech; and allowing corporations with great wealth to use it as speech effectively drowns out the protected free speech of the People in our diverse society; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens* decision supersedes state and local efforts to regulate corporate activity in their elections; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a groundswell of support around the nation to have Congress introduce an amendment to the Constitution stating that inalienable rights belong to human beings only, and that money is not a form of protected free speech under the First Amendment and can be regulated in political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, as of May 2012 over 160 municipalities and six states have either passed or currently have bills/resolutions in progress; and

WHEREAS, in order for Connecticut Congressional representatives to act, they must hear a resounding voice from their constituents and the Hartford Court of Common Council and Mayor are the elected representatives of the Capital of the state of Connecticut with a population over 125,000; and now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Motion, the City of Hartford hereby includes in its Federal and State Legislative Programs SUPPORT for a Constitutional Amendment and other legislative actions that will overturn Supreme Court decisions such as *Buckley* and *Citizens United* that together have established the principles that money is a form of speech and that corporations are a form of person.