

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
REDLANDS URGING CONGRESS TO PROPOSE A CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT ENDING CORPORATE PERSONHOOD**

WHEREAS, historically corporations were created as artificial entities subordinate to our democracy, yet the U.S. Supreme Court has granted corporations personhood status, free speech and other protections guaranteed to living humans by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, and the Redlands City Council considers it to be its right and duty to assert that corporations are not natural persons with human rights; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* further threatens our democracy by rolling back limits on corporate, union, and special interest spending in electoral campaigns, allowing vast amounts of money to drown out the voices of individual human beings; and

WHEREAS, Justice Stevens; writing in dissent in *Citizens United*, stated: "...corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their "personhood" often serves as a useful legal fiction-, But they are not themselves members of "We the People" by whom and for whom our Constitution was established"; and

WHEREAS, United States Supreme Court Justice Stevens also observed in *Nixon v. Shrink Missouri Government PAC* (2000) that "money is property, it is not speech", and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Patrick Leahy stated that the ruling "will allow major corporations—who should have law written to control their effect on America—to instead control America; " and Senator Chris *Dodd* pointed out that "money is not speech," that "corporations are not people" and that "a constitutional amendment is necessary to fully restore the voice of the American people;" and

WHEREAS, when freedom to speak is equated with freedom to spend money, millions of people who have less money are disenfranchised, thus denying their full rights to free speech.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Redlands will consider campaign finance reform measures for municipal elections in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the position of the City Council of the City of Redlands that corporations should not receive the same constitutional rights as natural persons, and that because money is not speech, limits on political spending will promote the goals of the First Amendment by ensuring that all citizens, regardless of wealth, have an equal opportunity to have their political opinions heard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Redlands City Council respectfully urges California's Congressional delegation to prioritize this proposal of an amendment to the United States Constitution that contains both of these principles so that the States may ratify it.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Redlands City Council directs the City Manager to send this resolution to the City's California Congressional Delegation.