

NO. 2014-390

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG SUPPORTING  
AN AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES  
CONSTITUTION; AND PROVIDING AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2010, in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the United States Supreme Court issued an opinion that corporations have the same rights to freedom of speech as natural persons under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, thereby establishing 'Corporate Personhood'; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens United* decision allows corporations to make unlimited anonymous expenditures to support or oppose any candidate for federal, state or local elected office; and

WHEREAS, this decision undermines American democratic elections because human beings, not corporations, are persons who should be entitled to the fundamental Constitutional Rights established in the Constitution and Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, this decision 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 human beings and communities; and

WHEREAS, the dissenting opinion in the *Citizens United* decision correctly states that corporations are not by themselves members of "We the People," by whom and for whom our Constitution was established.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida that the City seeks to limit the expansion of corporate 'personhood' rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending.

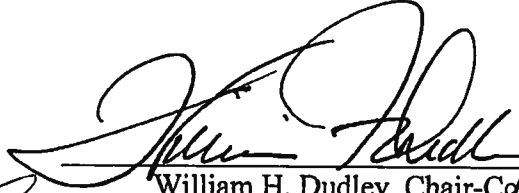
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this City Council stands with communities and people across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution providing that:

Only human beings, not corporations, 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.

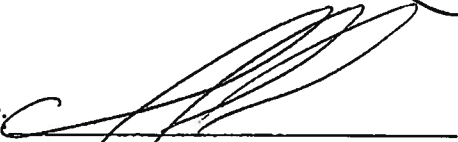
This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a regular session of the City Council held on the 4th day of  
September, 2014.



William H. Dudley, Chair-Councilmember  
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST:



Chan Srinivasa, City Clerk

