

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ESTABLISH AS A POSITION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, THAT CORPORATIONS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE THE SAME LEGAL RIGHTS AS NATURAL PERSONS, THAT MONEY IS NOT SPEECH, AND THAT POLITICAL EXPENDITURES CAN BE REGULATED

WHEREAS, We the people adopted and ratified the United States Constitution to protect the free speech and other rights of individuals, not corporations; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* overturned longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations (and unions) from spending general treasury funds in our elections; and,

WHEREAS, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related federal court decisions present a serious and direct threat to our nation's republican democracy, while standing in direct contrast to our local Alexandria commitment to good government, civic and civil discourse, and broad participation in local decision-making; and,

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution empowers and obligates the people and states of the United States of America to use the constitution amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and republican self-government; and,

WHEREAS, the people and states of the United States of America have strengthened the nation and preserved liberty and equality for all by using the amendment process throughout our history, including the overturning of erroneous Supreme Court decisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia commends the efforts of Congressmen James P. Moran and Gerald E. Connolly to address this issue; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (i) the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia calls upon the Virginia General Assembly and the United States Congress to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to reverse *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases and to restore constitutional rights and fair elections to the people, and (ii) that constitutional amendment should make clear (a) that corporations are not entitled to the constitutional protections or "rights" of natural persons; (b) that money is not speech; (c) that regulating election-related spending is not the same as limiting political speech; and (d) that Congress and the states may place limits on election contributions and expenditures.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

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WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council