

Integrated Version of Councilor Ayanna Pressley Amendment to Doc #0257



CITY OF BOSTON

**RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS S.772,
RESTORING FREE SPEECH**

- WHEREAS,** On January 21, 2010 the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision held that corporations and unions can spend unlimited amounts of money advocating the election or defeat of candidates for office; and
- WHEREAS,** The United States Supreme Court's ruling in Citizens United v. FED, overturned longstanding precedents prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in public elections; and
- WHEREAS,** This decision allows huge multinational corporations (including foreign-based corporations) to spend millions of dollars to influence our elections and thus our policy; and
- WHEREAS,** We hold a firm belief that the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations; and
- WHEREAS,** This ruling is a serious and direct threat to our democracy, the conduct of free and fair elections, and will dwarf the power and influence of everyday citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** The people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct decisions of the United States Supreme Court that invade or invalidate democratic institutions, including elections; and
- WHEREAS,** The State Legislature is considering a Resolution (S.772) calling on Congress to pass and send to the state for ratification a Constitutional Amendment allowing Congress the right to revoke corporations' to spend unlimited funds to influence elections. **THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the Boston City Council go on record in support of the Legislature's efforts to restore free speech and fair elections to individuals and urges the State Legislature to pass S.772.

Filed on 2/27/12