

# CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

Date:

March 27, 2012

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the First Amendment to the United States Constitution was designed to protect the free speech rights of people, not corporations; and

WHEREAS for the past three decades, the United States Supreme Court has transformed the First Amendment into a powerful tool for corporations seeking to evade and invalidate democratically-enacted reforms; and

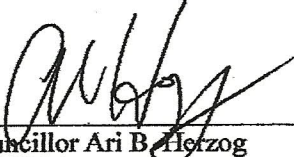
WHEREAS this corporate takeover of the First Amendment has reached its extreme conclusion in the United States Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, overturning longstanding precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections; and

WHEREAS the United States Supreme Court's ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* will now unleash a torrent of corporate money in our political process unmatched by any campaign expenditure totals in United States history; and

WHEREAS the people of the United States have previously used the constitutional amendment process to correct those egregiously wrong decisions of the United States Supreme Court that go to the heart of our democracy and self-government; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Newburyport City Council calls upon the United States Congress to pass and send to the states for ratification a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people; and be it further

RESOLVED that the City Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Newburyport's Congressional Representative (John Tierney), Massachusetts State Senator (Steven Baddour), and Massachusetts State Representative (Michael Costello).

  
Councillor Ari B. Herzog

  
Councillor Kathleen O'Connor Ives