

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

In the City Council July 16, 2012

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, a divided 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. FEC, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. FEC overturned long standing precedent prohibiting corporations from spending their general treasury funds in our elections, and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court 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 United States Supreme Court ruling in Citizens United v. FEC presents a serious and direct threat to our democracy, 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 Springfield City Council hereby joins the over 66 other cities and towns across the Commonwealth who have called for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United. Specifically, the City Council hereby formally urges the Massachusetts General Court to pass resolution S.772 which calls on Congress to pass (and send to the states for ratification) a constitutional amendment to restore the First Amendment and fair elections to the people.