

COUNCIL COPY

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

11-0691R

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECISION IN CITIZENS UNITED RELATED TO CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FOR CORPORATE ENTITIES.

BY COUNCILOR ANDERSON:

WHEREAS, there are several movements, both nationally and within the state of Minnesota to amend the respective Constitutions of each body relating to corporate personhood; and

WHEREAS, the Duluth city council believes that the rights protected by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Minnesota are rights of natural persons only; and

WHEREAS, artificial entities such as corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state are subject to regulation by the people through federal, state or local law; and

WHEREAS, the privileges of artificial entities should be determined by the people and should not be construed to be inherent or inalienable; and

WHEREAS, federal, state or local government should regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures of candidates for public office, including a candidate's own contributions and expenditures, to prohibit the influencing of an election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure; and

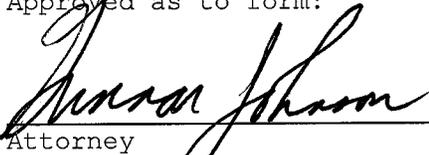
WHEREAS, government should require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed; and

WHEREAS, the judiciary should not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Duluth city council hereby supports the efforts to reject the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (130 S.Ct. 876 (2010)), and expresses its support to amend our state and national Constitutions to firmly establish that money is not

speech, that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights, and that whenever the word "person" is used in the constitution it means a natural person.

Approved as to form:



Attorney

CCREQ/ATTY GBJ:cjk 12/13/2011

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution is an expression of opposition to the recent Supreme Court decision referred to as Citizens United which granted certain Constitutional rights to artificial entities such as corporations. This resolution further expresses support for efforts to amend the United States and state of Minnesota constitution to clarify that human beings, not corporations, are persons entitled to constitutional rights.