

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by Initiative by the people of the City of Shaker Heights, Ohio, that the Administrative Code of the Shaker Heights Codified Ordinances be amended to enact new Section 113.10, entitled "Political Influence by Corporate Entities" which shall read as follows:

Section 113.10 Political Influence by Corporate Entities

- (a) Beginning in 2017, the Mayor and City Council shall designate one day, every two years, within ninety (90) days prior to the November general election, as "Democracy Day." On this day, the Mayor and City Council shall sponsor a public hearing to study the impact on the City, the state and the nation of political influence by corporate entities in connection with the most recent and upcoming elections. "Corporate entities" include business corporations, Political Action Committees, Super PACs, 501(c)(4) groups and unions. Members of the general public in attendance shall be afforded the opportunity to speak on these matters for up to five minutes per person. The public hearing shall be held during an evening or weekend time. The City will publicize the public hearing on its website and in area media at least two weeks in advance. The City shall record the hearing and make such recording or a transcript available to the public by posting such recording or transcript on the City's website within ten days following the hearing.
- (b) Within one (1) week following the biennial public hearing, the Clerk of City Council shall send a letter to the leaders of the Ohio House and Senate, to the U.S. Congressional Representative who represents the City, and to both Ohio Senators. The letter shall include a brief summary of the public hearing and will state that the citizens of the City of Shaker Heights in November 2016 voted in support of a Citizens' Initiative calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring:
  - (1) Only human beings, not corporations, are legal persons with Constitutional rights, and
  - (2) Money is not equivalent to speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending does not equate to limiting political speech.
- (c) The biennial public hearings will no longer be required if and when a Constitutional Amendment reflecting the principles set forth in sub-section (b) is ratified by three-quarters (3/4) of the state legislatures.

Approved November 8, 2016