CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT

Agenda Date: February 6, 2012
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2012-8 - a Resolution of the Albany City Council Calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to free democracy from corporate control, in response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission.*

REPORT BY: Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
That the Council adopt Resolution No. 2012-8.

BACKGROUND
At the March 7, 2011 City Council meeting, Council referred a draft Resolution regarding corporate spending on election campaigns as related to the U.S. Supreme Court's January 2010 decision on *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* to the Social and Economic Justice Commission. Council requested the Commission provide analysis of pros and cons and suggestions for any alternative language to the Resolution.

DISCUSSION
As directed by the City Council, the Social and Economic Justice Commission reviewed this item over the course of several months. At its January 2012 meeting, the Commission approved the attached Resolution, recommending adoption by the City Council.

The resolution provides for the City Council to call for freeing democracy from corporate control by calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to establish that: 1. Money is not speech, and 2. Corporations are not natural persons and not entitled to constitutional rights.   It further provides for the Council to request the appropriate elected representatives introduce and or support a constitutional amendment that contains both of these principles, or introduce motions to include these principles in related constitutional amendments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT
N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
None.

<u>Attachments</u>
1. Resolution No. 2012-8
2. Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission – U.S. Supreme Court Case Summary
3. Supplemental Information re. Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission provided by Social and Economic Justice Commission