

MOTION

“Stopping Foreign Money from Influencing Elections in Los Angeles”

Federal law currently prohibits foreign governments, foreign-based companies, and people who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents from contributing or spending money in connection with any local, state, or federal election. However, as a result of the United States Supreme Court’s 2010 *Citizens United* decision, nothing currently stops foreign interests from laundering money through U.S.-based corporations.

On July 21, 2016, City Councilwoman Darden Rice of St. Petersburg, Florida introduced an ordinance to the St. Petersburg City Council to prevent spending by foreign-influenced corporations in city elections. The St. Petersburg ordinance requires corporations that spend \$5,000 or more to influence St. Petersburg elections to certify that they are *not* controlled in significant part by foreign entities.

The St. Petersburg ordinance, which has been championed by grassroots organizations like “Free Speech for People” offers an interesting and important example for Los Angeles as City leaders work to reduce the influence of money in local elections.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst work with the City Ethics Commission and staff to prepare and present a report to the City Council on options for pursuing an ordinance in Los Angeles that requires any businesses spending money in local elections to certify that they are not foreign-influenced.


PRESENTED BY:



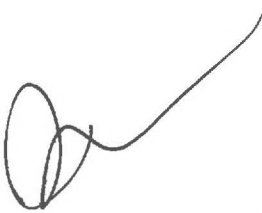
MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL



JAN 17 2017