City of Pleasant Ridge
23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

ANTI-CORRUPTION RESOLUTION

A resolution to establish as a position of the City of Pleasant Ridge, Michigan that new anti-corruption laws for politicians, lobbyists, and outside groups such as Super PACs are necessary to protect and promote First Amendment free speech rights of all citizens, regardless of wealth, and to restore ordinary US citizens as the most important stakeholders in government instead of major donors.

WHEREAS, limits on contributions to political candidates are justified by the need to reduce corruption and the appearance of corruption, as outlined in Buckley v. Valeo (1976); and,

WHEREAS, contributions to candidates, and political spending on their behalf, from lobbyists, and Super PACs present a special risk of corruption; and,

WHEREAS, with nearly $6 billion spent in the 2012 elections, where the majority came from big special interest donors, politicians are dependent on a tiny percentage of the population to fundraise their campaigns while ordinary voters have less influence; and,

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court held in Nevada Commission on Ethics v. Carrigan (2011) that restrictions on official actions taken by legislators in situations in which their independence of judgment is questioned do not constitute restrictions on the First Amendment free speech rights of legislators; and,

WHEREAS, closing the "revolving door," where elected representatives and senior staff sell off their legislative power for high-paying jobs, is important to ensure that government employees are not "influenced in the performance of public duties by the thought of later reaping a benefit from a private individual." Brown v. District of Columbia Board of Zoning, 413 A.2d 1276, 1282 (D.C. App. 1980); and,

WHEREAS, federal agencies such as the Federal Election Commission routinely fail to enforce the anti-corruption rules that already exist; and,

WHEREAS, full transparency of all political money is necessary for the growth of an educated and informed electorate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of Pleasant Ridge, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, that Congress must pass new anti-corruption laws that include legislation to prohibit politicians from taking campaign money from industries they regulate; put limits on unregulated Super PACs and other groups; increase transparency for campaign funding; stop

elected representatives and senior staff from negotiating jobs while in office and bar them from all lobbying activity for five years once they leave; and strengthen federal agencies and House and Senate ethics committees to enforce the rules against politicians and special interests that break campaign finance law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Pleasant Ridge hereby urges the Michigan Congressional delegation to support and introduce anti-corruption legislation in the United States House and Senate addressing the issues herein described.

Signed this 13th day of June 2017, in the City of Pleasant Ridge State of Michigan in witness whereof the official seal and signature of the city.

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Kurt Metzger, Mayor