



FROM THE OFFICE OF MARGARET S. CHIN  
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**Council member Margaret Chin testifies that corporations are  
NOT people at today's Governmental Operations Committee  
hearing**

**New York, NY** – Today, Council member Margaret Chin (D-Manhattan) voiced her support for a resolution introduced by members of the Progressive Caucus which opposes the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*.

The Resolution "opposes the United State Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in *Citizens United* regarding the constitutional rights of corporations, supporting an amendment to the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or "rights" of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech, and calling on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution by passing S.J. Res. 29/H.J. Res. 86."

Council member Chin submitted testimony in support of the resolution. Her testimony is as follows:

"Today, I want to voice my support for the resolution we will discuss today, which opposes the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Committee*. I also want to voice my support for an amendment to the Constitution to state that corporations are not in fact, people, and thus should not be afforded the same protection with regards to the freedom of speech, as living, breathing Americans. Earlier this year, the Los Angeles City Council was the first city to approve a similar resolution calling on Congress to amend the constitution to clearly establish that only people, not corporations, are endowed with constitution rights. It is my sincere hope that the New York City Council will be the second city in our nation to reaffirm this sentiment.

*Citizens United* significantly limited legal oversight of corporate spending with regards to the electoral process. The decision affirmed the right of corporations to raise and spend unlimited funds on political campaigns, effectively giving moneyed special interest groups

an undue influence in our electoral system. Under the decision, corporations and unions, alike, can spend as much as they want to support candidates they like, or attack candidates they dislike. It is the right of corporations, according to the Court's decision, to speak with their wallets.

This privatization of democracy has already started to irrevocably change elections in our country. The Supreme Court has consistently prevented Congress from enacting laws to restrict campaign donations and spending. Whether it is personal or corporate wealth, the 1 percent in our society speaks louder than the 99 percent of Americans when it comes to elections.

It is time to restore our elections to the voting public. Corporations are a structure which allows people to run and operate a business with the goal of making a profit. As many scholars have noted, the rights and responsibilities of a corporation are distinct from the people who own or participate in them. In fact, corporations are developed in part to shield an individual's personal liability for its actions. The separation between a corporation and an individual is well enshrined in our legal system, I see no reason it shouldn't also be so with regards to our elections.

I want to thank Speaker Quinn for her leadership on this issue, as well as Council member Brewer, Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, and my colleagues in the Progressive Caucus for introducing this important resolution."

## **Council member Margaret Chin joins CCBA President Jack Eng to turn on the holiday lights in Chinatown**

New York, NY – Today, Council member Margaret Chin joined Jack Eng, President of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, to turn on Chinatown’s annual holiday lights.

“I am so happy to be here today to reaffirm the strong bonds between Little Italy and Chinatown,” **said Council member Chin.** “As many of you know, when I first came to America at the age of nine, we lived in Mott Street in Little Italy – and my mother still lives on Mott Street. These two neighborhoods have a shared history and I am confident that their future will be even brighter. These banners will provide wayfinding for visitors and New Yorkers alike, and will serve to introduce a new generation to the hidden gems, unique shops, and delicious restaurants our neighborhood is famous for.”

The banners – which will feature a variety of original artwork and are sponsored by different individuals, organizations, and businesses – will promote the Little Italy and Chinatown historic district. The banners go hand-in-hand with a newly released map of the district. The map serves as a self-guided tour, highlighting architectural gems and a clear route from the new 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center to the Chinatown & Little Italy Historic District.

Twenty-five thousand maps have been printed and are being distributed near the World Trade Center and throughout New York City. Maps can be found at hotel concierge desks, as well as the NYC & Co. Information Kiosks located on Canal & Baxter Streets, Times Square, and at the corner of Broadway & Vesey Street.

Business owners and community groups from Chinatown & Little Italy have joined forces to create a new marketing campaign highlighting neighborhood cultural landmarks, stores, and restaurants; 40 new street banners featuring original artwork commissioned by Two Bridges and depicting iconic buildings will be installed throughout the historic Chinatown & Little Italy neighborhoods, and are designed to go hand-in-hand with a newly released map of the district. The map serves as a self-

guided tour, highlighting architectural gems and a clear route from the new 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center to the Chinatown & Little Italy Historic District.

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