

exhibits at our libraries, giving talks to civic organizations, and speaking at Town celebrations of national holidays.

The Hidden Brookline Committee is recognized as a leader in Massachusetts for our research and public education on slavery. Our research has been noted by the Brookline TAB, the Boston Globe, WBZ-TV, and NECN.

#### **ARTICLE 28**

**Submitted by:** Catherine Marris, Jake Wolf-Sorokin, and Pema Doma

While much time and energy has been spent making 'green' and sustainable improvements to various aspects of new building and infrastructure design as well as renovation of existing structures, the effects of toxic diesel pollution *during* construction projects are often overlooked. Highly problematic but easily prevented exposure to particulate matter soot in diesel exhaust has been linked to asthma, diabetes, stroke, heart attack, cancer and over 21,000 premature deaths annually in the U.S. Soot (black carbon) is a warming pollutant 2,000 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>. Its significance is increasingly being highlighted in national news sources. Updating Brookline's contract specifications to require the use of cleaner heavy-duty vehicles and equipment/or filters on aging equipment can practically eliminate emissions of particulate matter and black carbon soot. This is a relevant action to consider taking given the high rates of pediatric asthma in Brookline, the high cost of health insurance to the town, and significant investment in construction projects planned over the next 6 years.

#### **ARTICLE 29**

**Submitted by:** Frank Farlow, Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4, David Klaftrler, Town Meeting Member, Precinct 12, and Heleni Thayre

This resolution asks Congress to send to the states a constitutional amendment that restores to the federal and state governments the authority to regulate contributions and expenditures in elections and clarifies that corporations do not have free speech rights identical to those of individuals.

In the January, 2010, case *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*, the Supreme Court struck down bipartisan federal legislation that had limited corporations from spending their general treasury funds on political expenditures. As a result, for-profit corporations may now spend unlimited amounts to influence elections at all levels of government. Further, by equating unlimited spending to influence elections with free speech, the decision effectively eliminated government's ability to place any limits on campaign spending.

The Court's action dramatically dilutes the voice of every American who does not control a large corporate treasury or a vast personal fortune. Corporate lobbyists and other powerful special interests, as well as the extraordinarily rich, are now able to threaten public officials at all levels with the possibility of unending negative campaign ads if their agendas are not supported — and the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out of the electoral process.