

BANKING/FINANCE

Here Are US Companies Hitting Pause on Political Donations



SHUTTERSTOCK

Hallmark Cards says it's seeking reimbursement for the \$7,000 it donated to U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri and the \$5,000 it gave newly elected U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall of Kansas over the last two years. The Republicans objected to the certification of electors for President-elect Joe Biden.

by Kevin Miller

The list of companies that say they are withholding political contributions after last week's U.S. Capitol riot continues to grow hourly.

The companies fall into three broad categories: Those going after specific Republican lawmakers who voted against the certification of the presidential election, those going after objectors in general, and those withholding all contributions for now regardless of political party or whether a lawmaker participated in the effort. More than 100 Republican representatives and eight GOP senators voted to overturn the election's results.

This list does not include companies such as General Motors Co. or FedEx Corp. that for now are saying only that they are reviewing future contributions or always decide donations on a case-by-case basis according to their interests at the time.

ACTION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS

HALLMARK CARDS: The maker of greeting cards was very specific in the message it wants to send U.S. Senators Josh Hawley and Roger Marshall: Give us our money back. The Kansas City, Missouri-based company said it's seeking reimbursement for the \$7,000 it donated to Hawley, of Missouri, and the \$5,000 it gave newly elected Marshall, of Kansas, over the last two years. The Republicans objected to the certification of electors for President-elect Joe Biden.

GENERAL ACTION AGAINST OBJECTORS

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL: The hotel chain was among the first to say it is suspending donations to Republican senators who voted against certifying Biden, after considering the "destructive events" at the Capitol last week.

DOW: The chemical company paused contributions by its political action committees to members of Congress who voted to object to the certification. The suspension will remain in place for one election cycle, meaning it will last two years for lawmakers in the House of Representatives and six years for senators. "Dow is committed to the principles of democracy and the peaceful transfer of power," the Midland, Michigan-based company said in a statement.

AIRBNB: The online marketplace for travelers says it will "continue to

uphold our community policies by banning violent hate group members when we learn of such memberships, and the Airbnb PAC will update its framework and withhold support from those who voted against the certification of the presidential election results."

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD: The health-insurer association "will suspend contributions to those lawmakers who voted to undermine our democracy," Chief Executive Officer Kim Keck said in a statement issued Friday.

PAUSING ALL CONTRIBUTIONS

COCA-COLA: The beverage company said it will suspend political giving following contributions to the Biden inauguration. The move was made "in light of the unlawful and violent events in our nation's capital last week. These events will long be remembered and will factor into our future contribution decisions," the company said in an email.

CITIGROUP: The bank will temporarily stop all political contributions in the current quarter. "We want you to be assured that we will not support candidates who do not respect the rule of law," Candi Wolff, Citi's head of global government affairs, said in a memo to employees.

MICROSOFT: The software company's PAC decided Friday it won't make any political donations until it assesses the recent events. The company said its PAC regularly pauses donations in the first quarter of a new Congress but it will "take additional steps this year to consider these recent events and consult with employees."

FACEBOOK: The social-media company is pausing all of its PAC contributions "for at least the current quarter while we review our policies," spokesman Andy Stone said.

FORD MOTOR: The automaker suspended new contributions from its employee PAC "for now" because "events over the past year have underscored the need for a broader, ongoing discussion about other relevant considerations when it comes to our employee PAC."

AMERICAN EXPRESS: The credit-card company said Monday that its PAC wouldn't support congressional members who tried "to subvert the presidential election results and disrupt the peaceful transition of power."

Kevin Miller reports for Bloomberg News.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

All residents, property owners and other interested parties are hereby notified of a **COUNCIL ZONING MEETING** on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021, beginning at 10:30 AM**. The purpose of this public hearing is to review and approve/deny the proposed site plan for Shelton Academy.

General Public Comments: members of the public that wish to provide comments in writing may do so by emailing the City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofdoral.com. Comments must be submitted with your name and full address by Tuesday, January 26, 2021. The comments will be circulated to the elected officials and administration, as well as remain as a part of the record for the meeting.

Public Hearing Comments: members of the public that wish to provide comments on the Public Hearing item(s) **ONLY**, may register to join the meeting via this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7252567124937783824>

The meeting will be broadcasted live for members of the public to view on the City of Doral's website (<https://www.cityofdoral.com/government/city-clerk/council-meetings>) as well as Channel 77 and Facebook Live.

The City of Doral proposes to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 21-

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DORAL, FLORIDA, APPROVING/DENYING THE SITE PLAN FOR SHELTON ACADEMY LOCATED AT 9455 NW 40 STREET ROAD, DORAL, FLORIDA: PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

HEARING NO.: 21-10-DOR-01

APPLICANT: Orbis Fortium, LLC (the "Applicant")

PROJECT NAME: Shelton Academy

LOCATION: 9455 NW 40 Street Road, Doral, FL 33178

FOLIO NUMBER(S): 35-3028-015-0010 and 35-3028-015-0020

SIZE OF PROPERTY: Approximately 4 acres.

CURRENT FUTURE LAND USE MAP CATEGORY: Office and Residential

CURRENT ZONING DISTRICT: Office O-1 District

REQUEST: Orbis Fortium, LLC (the "Applicant") is requesting the Mayor and the City Council approval of a site plan for Shelton Academy, a privately owned Catholic based school. The school comprises of 600 students in grades K-12.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lots 1 and 2, in Block 1 of "SWISS CHALET SUBDIVISION", according to the Plat thereof, as recorded in Plat Book 140, Page 79, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Location Map



Inquiries regarding the item may be directed to the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes If a person decides to appeal any decisions made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. This notice does not constitute consent by the City for introduction or admission of otherwise inadmissible or irrelevant evidence, nor does it authorize challenges or appeals not otherwise allowed by law. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305-59-DORAL no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

Connie Diaz, MMC
City Clerk
City of Doral City of Doral