

## Request for Board of Directors to Adopt Policy for an Independent Chair

### RESOLVED:

Shareholders request the Board of Directors adopt as policy, and amend the bylaws as necessary, to require hereafter that the Chair of the Board of Directors be an independent member of the Board, consistent with applicable law and existing contracts. If the Board determines that a Chair who was independent when selected is no longer independent, the Board shall select a new Chair who satisfies the requirements of the policy within a reasonable amount of time.

### SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

The Chief Executive Officer of Visa Inc. is also Board Chairman. We believe these roles – each with separate, different responsibilities that are critical to the health of a successful corporation – are greatly diminished when held by a singular company official, thus weakening its governance structure.

Expert perspectives substantiate our position:

- According to the Council of Institutional Investors ( <https://bit.ly/3pKrtJK> ), “A CEO who also serves as chair can exert excessive influence on the board and its agenda, weakening the board’s oversight of management. Separating the chair and CEO positions reduces this conflict, and an independent chair provides the clearest separation of power between the CEO and the rest of the board.”
- A 2014 report from Deloitte ( <https://bit.ly/3vQGqe1> ) concluded, “The chairman should lead the board and there should be a clear division of responsibilities between the chairman and the chief executive officer (CEO).”
- A pair of business law professors wrote for *Harvard Business Review* ( <https://bit.ly/3xvcIOA> ) in March 2020 that “letting the CEO chair the board can compromise board discussion quality, weakening the corporation’s risk management ability... Splitting the CEO and board chair jobs between two people can help strengthen the quality of questions the corporation asks itself. When those questions remain weak, the organization is less likely to develop strategies that mitigate risk.”
- Proxy adviser Glass Lewis advised ( <https://bit.ly/3xwuJwa> ) in 2021, “the presence of an independent chair fosters the creation of a thoughtful and dynamic board not dominated by the views of senior management. Further, we believe that the separation of these two key roles eliminates the conflict of interest that inevitably occurs when a CEO is responsible for self-oversight.”