

1 **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-08**

2 **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF**
3 **COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIRGUN**
4 **TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN; PROVIDING FOR AN**
5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 **WHEREAS**, the City of Cocoa Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal
7 environment and its resources, and

8 **WHEREAS**, seismic airgun testing is being proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy
9 Management (BOEM) for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast; and

10 **WHEREAS**, tourism is a major economic force in the City of Cocoa Beach and offshore
11 drilling poses a major threat to our coastal economy and natural resources and, should a spill occur,
12 the natural environment that supports our local economy would be severely damaged and the quality
13 of life that both residents and visitors have come to expect would be negatively affected for the
14 foreseeable future; and

15 **WHEREAS**, and the State of Florida has a long history of hurricanes and offshore drilling
16 would increase the chances of platform failures and oil spills due to the vulnerability of the coastal
17 waters to severe weather, and

18 **WHEREAS**, the use of airguns to conduct these seismic tests threatens fish populations and
19 profitable fisheries; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the type of seismic airgun testing used to search for oil and gas is incredibly
21 harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals, sea turtles and fish including
22 the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale whose population stands at 500 individuals in the
23 entire world, and

24 **WHEREAS**, the seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air – almost as loud as
25 explosives every 10-12 seconds twenty-four hours a day for days to weeks on end. These loud airgun
26 blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their
27 habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, airguns can cause
28 permanent hearing loss, injury and even death for whales, dolphins, sea turtles and fish; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the proposed seismic airgun testing will result in serious negative impact to our
30 marine resources, which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the
31 Atlantic Coast.

32 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCOA**
33 **BEACH; BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**, opposes seismic airgun testing and urges the President's
34 Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the
35 Atlantic Coast as we cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local
36 economies at risk.

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Obama.

38 Upon Motion by Commissioner Malik and Seconded by Commissioner Tumulty
39 this Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Cocoa Beach, Florida,
40 held on the 3rd day of April, 2014.

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43 ATTEST:

44 Cyrtalya Tyles
45 Assistant to the City Clerk
46 for Loredana Kalaghchy, MMC
City Clerk

David Netterstrom
David Netterstrom, Mayor-Commissioner