

## RESOLUTION 15-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH OPPOSING SEISMIC AIR GUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OIL DRILLING IN FLORIDA'S WATERS IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION.**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of the Interior has endorsed seismic testing in Atlantic Ocean waters, a first step toward allowing oil and gas drilling from Delaware Bay to Cape Canaveral; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed seismic testing would use air guns firing intense blasts of compressed air over extended time periods and could prove harmful to or injure and kill marine mammals and fish; and

**WHEREAS**, The Town of Fort Myers Beach understands that conclusions as to the full impact of the effects of seismic testing and the options for mitigation of these impacts require additional research; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fort Myers Beach recognizes that tourism related to a healthy and vibrant coastal environment serves as a major economic force benefiting the residents, property owners and visitors of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, tax revenues generated from Florida's growing tourism industry are critical to continued funding of essential governmental services, including transportation, schools and public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the coasts of Florida have the potential for the great risk of environmental damage, and environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge which contains drilling fluids and heavy metals including mercury; and

**WHEREAS**, according to oil industry data, an oil rig off the coast of Florida could dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and may contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fort Myers Beach understands that conclusions as to the full impact of the effects of seismic testing and the options for mitigation of these impacts require additional research, and supports further development of non-fossil fuel energy sources, such as solar and wind energy.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

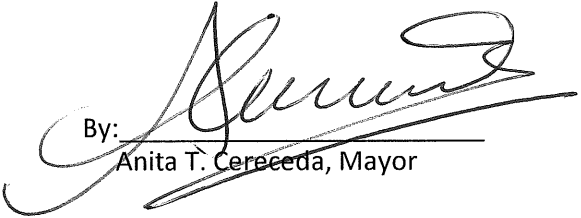
That the Town of Fort Myers Beach stands opposed to seismic testing in Atlantic Ocean waters until the complete evaluation of all testing options and the implementation of all proper assurances for protection of marine life, and strongly encourages all elected officials at the county, state and federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to expand offshore oil drilling past the areas already approved for

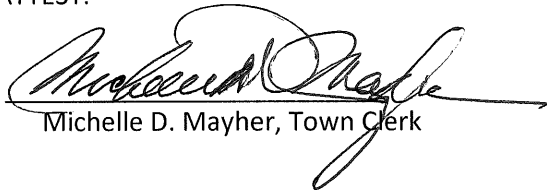
preleasing, leasing and oil production activities and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternative sources of energy.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Town Council upon a motion by Vice Mayor Andre and seconded by Council Member Hosafros and upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

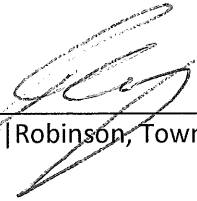
Anita Cereceda, Mayor	aye	Dan Andre, Vice Mayor	aye
Alan Mandel	aye	Rexann Hosafros	aye
Summer Stockton	aye		

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF APRIL 2015, BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH.

By:   
Anita T. Cereceda, Mayor

ATTEST:  
By:   
Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

By:   
Gray Robinson, Town Attorney