



# TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH

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BREVARD COUNTY'S OLDEST BEACH COMMUNITY ♦ ESTABLISHED 1883

## RESOLUTION NO. 2014-11

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Melbourne Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources, and

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

**WHEREAS**, residents have an expectation of a quality of life and demonstrate a concern for our environment in the Town of Melbourne Beach and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal community and our natural resources and,

**WHEREAS**, the type of seismic air-gun testing used to search for oil and gas is incredibly harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals and fish including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, and

**WHEREAS**, the, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air - almost as loud as explosives every 1-12 seconds twenty-four hours a day for days to weeks on end; these loud air-gun blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, air-guns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury and even death for whales, dolphins and fish, and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed seismic air-gun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast; and

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



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**WHEREAS**, the Town of Melbourne Beach is located on Atlantic Coast of Florida, the economic vitality of communities on the Atlantic Coast affects the economic vitality of Florida and all of its cities,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Commission of Town of Melbourne Beach, Florida opposes seismic air gun testing and urges the President's Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast and the eastern Gulf of Mexico because we cannot continue to put our ocean environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Obama.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**DULY ADOPTED** at a public hearing this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September.

ATTEST: Charmagne Manning  
Charmagne Manning, CMC  
Town Clerk

By: James D. Simmons  
James D. Simmons, Mayor