

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST MELBOURNE, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SEISMIC AIRGUN TESTING IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION.

WHEREAS, the City of West Melbourne is located off the Atlantic Coast of Florida and endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, residents have an expectation of a quality of life tied to that environment, and have demonstrated their concern for our environment in the City of West Melbourne; 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, offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal community and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, South Brevard County is the largest nesting area in the United States for threatened loggerhead turtles and endangered green turtles; and

WHEREAS, the type of seismic airgun 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, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, which are almost as loud as explosives, every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for days to weeks on end; and

WHEREAS, these seismic airgun 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; and

WHEREAS, at shorter distances, these seismic airguns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury, and even death for whales, dolphins, and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic airgun testing will result in serious negative impact to 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 will increase the chances of platform failures and oil spills due to the vulnerability of coastal waters to severe weather.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West Melbourne, Florida, as follows:

SECTION 1. That seismic airgun testing will put our ocean environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore, the West Melbourne City Council hereby expresses its opposition to seismic airgun 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.

SECTION 2. That the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Barack Obama.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon adoption in accordance with the Charter of the City of West Melbourne.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall become effective immediately.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST MELBOURNE, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, THIS 3RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015.



BY: Hal Rose
Hal J. Rose, Mayor

Sue Frank
Sue Frank, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

James P. Wilson
James P. Wilson, City Attorney