RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA, TO EXPRESS THE TOWN'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO TOWN OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage; and

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida’s Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea (“Town”) recognizes that the tourism, diving and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Town endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region’s
environment and its resources, and for many years has invested in the maintenance and creation of expanded and stronger dunes and coral reefs in its nearshore waters, earning the Town the title of the "Beach Diving Capital of Florida"; and

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and

WHEREAS, the Town finds that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health, before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Recitals. Each "WHEREAS" clause set forth is true and correct and herein incorporated by this reference.

Section 2. Finding. The Town Commission finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk. These risks are particularly pronounced in the Town, as the Beach Diving Capital of Florida.

Section 3. Commission Opposition to Federal Action. The Town Commission opposes offshore oil drilling and seismic airgun blasting off Florida's coast and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast. The Town Commission further urges the State Administration and Florida Legislature to oppose any such federal actions.

Section 4. Distribution. The Town Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to the Governor Ron DeSantis, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida City-County Management
Association, Board of County Commissioners for Broward County, the Broward County League of Cities, the Broward Legislative Delegation, and each of the municipalities in Broward County.

Section 6. Authorization to Implement. The appropriate Town officials are authorized to execute all necessary documents and to take any necessary action to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ___ day of March, 2019.

Mayor Chris Vincent

Attest:

Town Clerk Tedra Allen
(CORPORATE SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Susan L. Trevarthen, Town Attorney