

RESOLUTION NO. 91-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, DECLARING THAT THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH OPPOSES OFFSHORE DEVELOPMENT, EXPLORATION, AND DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING, OFF OF FLORIDA'S COASTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the federal government for the United States of America has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development, exploration, and drilling, including the risky method of seismic airgun blasting; and

WHEREAS, the use of seismic airguns results in intense blasts of compressed air into the ocean every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and

WHEREAS, the intense blasts from the seismic airguns is one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean and 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 Florida's coasts; 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 City of West Palm Beach recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Palm Beach endeavors to be a good steward of Florida's environment and resources; 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 the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Palm Beach recommends 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 CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1: The City Commission of the City of West Palm Beach believes that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration off of Florida's coasts, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources, and local economies at an unnecessary risk.

SECTION 2: The City Commission of the City of West Palm Beach hereby expresses its opposition to offshore oil and gas development, exploration, and drilling off of Florida's coasts and urges the federal government of the United States not to pursue such practices.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall take effect in accordance with law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6TH DAY OF APRIL, 2020.



ATTEST:

X *Hazeline F. Carson*

CITY CLERK
Signed by: Hazeline F Carson

**CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH BY
ITS CITY COMMISSION:**

X *Tertha A. Jones*

PRESIDING OFFICER
Signed by: *.wpb.org

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:**

4/2/2020

X *Anthony M. Holla*

CITY ATTORNEY
Signed by: *.wpb.org