

RESOLUTION 19-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLMES BEACH, FLORIDA TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF HOLMES BEACH'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT.

WHEREAS, the federal government has expressed interest in opening the 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 at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for week to months on end that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

WHEREAS, the full impact of seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, or the federal government; and,

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and 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, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Holmes Beach recognizes that the tourism 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 City of Holmes Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its 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 our country; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Holmes 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 Holmes Beach, Florida, as follows:

Section 1. Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Section 2. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption by the City Commission and approval by the Mayor in accordance with the Charter of the City of Holmes Beach.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED, WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND VOTING THIS
23rd day of July 2019, by the City Commission of the City of Holmes Beach,
Florida.



Jim Kihm



Carol Soustek



Kim Rash



Patrick Morton




Rick Hurst

APPROVED BY ME THIS 30th DAY OF July, 2019.



Judy Titsworth, Mayor

ATTEST


Stacey Johnston, MMC, City Clerk