

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 3084

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE CITY'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO CITY OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND 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 City of Sunny Isles 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 Sunny Isles 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 Sunny Isles 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; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that expressing opposition to offshore drilling activities, including seismic airgun blasting, is in the best interest of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed by the City Commission and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Finding. Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

Section 3. Opposition to Federal Action. The City Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast. The City Commission further urges the State Administration and Florida Legislature to oppose any such federal actions.

Section 4. Distribution. The City Clerk is directed to submit copies of the resolution to Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, Governor 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 Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, and each of the municipalities in Miami-Dade County.


Section 5. Implementation. That the appropriate City officials are hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents and to take all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 16th day of July 2020.


 George H. Scholl, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Mauricio Betancur, CMC, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**



 Edward A. Dion, City Attorney

Motion by: COMMISSIONER GOLDMAN Second by: VICE MAYOR SVECHIN

Vote:

Mayor Scholl	<u>✓</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Vice Mayor Svechin	<u>✓</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Commissioner Goldman	<u>✓</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Commissioner Lama	<u>✓</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)
Commissioner Viscarra	<u>✓</u>	(Yes)	_____	(No)