WHEREAS it is in the best interest of the City of Gulfport, Florida, to oppose the approval of offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico in areas off the coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, as well as in territorial waters off the coasts of these states; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, has a stake in the environmental concerns and the potential for spills and oil leaks that would affect the city's waterways and beaches; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, has a stake in the economic and social well-being of the residents and businesses in the area; and

WHEREAS the approval of offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico would not only pose a threat to the environment but could also have a negative impact on the local economy and community; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, supports policies that prioritize the protection of the environment and the well-being of its residents; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, believes that offshore oil drilling is not in the best interest of the city and its residents; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, is committed to preserving its natural resources and protecting its environment; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, recognizes the importance of protecting the coastline and preserving the natural beauty of the city; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, is concerned about the potential for spills and oil leaks that could affect the city's waterways and beaches; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, believes that offshore oil drilling is not in the best interest of the city and its residents; and

WHEREAS the City of Gulfport, Florida, is committed to preserving its natural resources and protecting its environment; and

RESOLUTION 2009-93

EXPLORE OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OFF LEASING AND OFF.

APPROVAL OF OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS

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PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of September, 2009, by the Council of the City of Gulfport, Florida.

Section 1. The City Council hereby encourages all elected officials of the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow offshore drilling expansion in the eastern Gulf of Mexico past the areas already approved for preleasing, leasing and oil production activities, and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternative sources of energy.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT,