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RESOLUTION NO. R-2017-086

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING ITS OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IN FLORIDA WATERS AS HAVING A DELETERIOUS IMPACT ON FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO VARIOUS STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida's clear clean waters, world-class beaches and coral reefs draw millions of visitors each year, supports a \$53 billion tourism industry, a \$14 billion marine industry and a fishing industry that injects more than \$6 billion a year to Florida communities; and

WHEREAS, Florida's tourism industry generated \$13.3 billion in payroll to over 1 million Floridians directly employed in tourism; and

WHEREAS, Florida's tourism industry generated over \$65 billion in 2008 to Florida's economy and the sales tax revenue derived there from constitute a significant portion of the State's budget; and

WHEREAS, Florida's leaders from both major political parties have historically recognized the value of our shorelines to our economy; and

WHEREAS, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita resulted in 125 spills from platforms, rigs and pipelines totaling 685,000 gallons of oil lost into the sea; and

WHEREAS, because oil prices are determined on the international market, any impact that offshore drilling in Florida waters might have on the wellhead prices is expected to be insignificant; and

WHEREAS, any oil spill event in the Gulf of Mexico would cause harm to Florida's tourism-based economy and could bring ecological damage to Fort Lauderdale's beach by way of the loop current; and

1 **WHEREAS**, oil spill events emanating from allowing offshore oil drilling in
2 Florida's waters will significantly jeopardize Florida's pristine waters, world-class
3 beaches, coral reefs, negatively impact the tourism industry and State revenue;
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Florida's economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism
6 industry, which resulted in more than 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008,
7 during which period tourism generated over \$4.0 billion in taxable sales; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, tourism account for one-third of Florida's budget revenue and
10 96% of those visitors cite the beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit
11 Florida; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, tax revenues generated from Florida's growing tourism industry
14 are critical to continued funding of essential governmental services, including
15 transportation, schools, and public safety; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the testing and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a
18 unique and irreplaceable national security asset that provides critical live-fire testing
19 and training opportunities that are incompatible with mineral exploration and
20 extraction; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental
23 damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling
26 platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge which contains drilling fluids and
27 heavy metals including mercury; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, according to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico
30 can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These
31 contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and may contaminate local beaches
32 and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil drilling
35 technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline,
36 beaches, plant, and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or
37 during storm situations; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, lifting the moratorium on mineral leasing in the Gulf of Mexico
40 poses an intolerable threat to the beaches, waterways, economy of Florida, and national
41 security; and
42

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States government has expressed interest in opening
2 the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development
3 and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic air gun blasting; and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, seismic air guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the
6 loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months
7 on end; and,
8

9 **WHEREAS**, seismic air gun noise has been shown to harm and injure
10 dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,
11

12 **WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and
13 transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and
14 chronic leakage; and,
15

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Oakland Park,**
17 **Florida urges the United States federal government not to pursue or allow**
18 **offshore oil and gas drilling, exploration, or development in the Atlantic Ocean off**
19 **the East Coast of the State of Florida and states that:**
20

21 **SECTION 1.** The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are true and correct and
22 hereby ratified and confirmed by the City Commission. All exhibits attached hereto are
23 hereby incorporated herein.
24

25 **SECTION 2.** The City Commission of the City of Oakland Park, Florida,
26 hereby expresses its opposition to offshore oil drilling including seismic air gun
27 blasting in Florida waters in areas other than those already approved for oil leasing and
28 oil exploration and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development
29 of alternative sources of energy.
30

31 **SECTION 3.** The appropriate City officials are authorized and directed to
32 execute the necessary documents to comply with this Resolution.
33

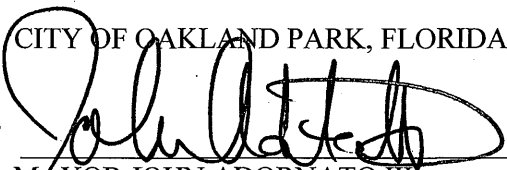
34 **SECTION 4.** All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, be
35 and the same are repealed to the extent of such conflict.
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SECTION 5. If any clause, section or other part of this Resolution shall be held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutional or invalid part shall be considered eliminated and will in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Oakland Park, Florida this 19th day of July 2017.

CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA

MAYOR JOHN ADORNATO III

T. LONERGAN	<u>YES</u>
S. GUEVREKIAN	<u>YES</u>
M. SPARKS	<u>YES</u>
M. CARN	<u>YES</u>
J. ADORNATO	<u>YES</u>

ATTEST

RENEE M. SHROUT, CMC
CITY CLERK