

## **RESOLUTION 2023-09**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES AND EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of St. Pete Beach opposed offshore oil drilling and exploration activities.

**WHEREAS**, the United States government has expressed interest in expanding offshore oil and gas development and exploration in the Gulf of Mexico.

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is in the process of finalizing its 5-year plan for offshore drilling, which will shape the future of energy development along our coasts.

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage.

**WHEREAS**, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast.

**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.

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Pete 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.

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Pete Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources.

**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.

**WHEREAS**, expanded offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration in the Gulf of Mexico will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, THAT:**

SECTION 1. Recitals. The above recitals ("Whereas" clauses) are true and correct and adopted hereby as findings, purpose and intent of the City Commission.

SECTION 2. The City Commission hereby 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. Therefore, the City Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast and issue no new leases in the final 5-year plan.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, THIS 29 DAY OF JUNE, 2023.**

CITY COMMISSION, CITY OF ST. PETE  
BEACH, FLORIDA.



Adrian Petrila, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



Andrew Dickman, City Attorney