

RESOLUTION NO. 2015- 37

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF VERO BEACH, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA,
EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC AIRGUN
TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE
ATLANTIC OCEAN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City of Vero Beach is located on the East coast of Florida along the Atlantic Ocean and the Vero Beach city government and Vero Beach residents endeavor to be good stewards of the coastal environment and its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Vero Beach enjoy and have a continuing expectation of a quality of life closely tied to preserving that coastal environment, and have demonstrated their concern for our coastal environment and its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, one example of our diverse coastal environment and its natural resources is the fact that Vero Beach and Indian River County comprise one of the largest nesting areas in the United States for threatened loggerhead sea turtles and endangered green sea turtles; and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun testing is being proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling would pose a significant threat to Vero Beach's coastal community and its coastal environment and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the type of seismic airgun testing used to search for oil and gas has been found to be incredibly harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals and fish, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale; and

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air which are almost as loud as explosives every 10 to 12 seconds, twenty-four hours a day, for days and weeks on end; and

WHEREAS, these seismic airgun blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent, and cease foraging over vast areas; and

WHEREAS, at shorter distances, these seismic airguns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury, and even death for whales, dolphins, and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic airgun testing will result in serious negative impact to marine resources that form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has a long history of hurricanes and other severe Atlantic storms, significantly increasing the risk and likelihood of offshore drilling platform failures and resulting oil spills due to the vulnerability of our coastal waters from such severe weather events; and

WHEREAS, any such offshore failure and oil spill would be disastrous to our coastal environment, beaches, marines resources, and local economy; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Vero Beach to express the City Council's official opposition to seismic airgun testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VERO BEACH, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1 – Adoption of “Whereas” clauses.

The foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby adopted and incorporated herein as forming the legislative findings, purpose, and intent of this Resolution.

Section 2 – Opposition to Seismic Airgun Testing and Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

The City Council of the City of Vero Beach hereby expresses its opposition to any proposed seismic airgun testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean and urges the President and the Governor and their administrations to do everything possible to halt this process and proposed activities in order to protect our coastal communities, natural resources, and local economies.

Section 3 – Direction to City Clerk.

The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States of America and to the Governor of the State of Florida.

Section 4 – Conflict.

Should any resolution or parts of resolutions conflict herewith, the provisions of this Resolution shall supersede and control on the subject matter of this Resolution.

Section 5 – Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the City Council.

This Resolution was heard on the 17th day of November 2015, after which hearing it was moved for adoption by Councilmember Winger, seconded by Councilmember Old, and adopted by the following vote of the City Council:

Mayor Jay Kramer

yes

Vice-Mayor Randolph B. Old

yes

Councilmember Pilar E. Turner

yes

Councilmember Richard G. Winger

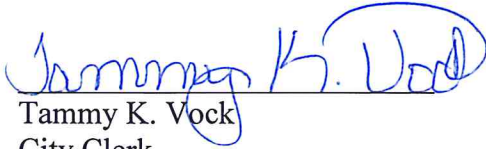
yes

Councilmember Harry Howle III

yes

ATTEST:

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

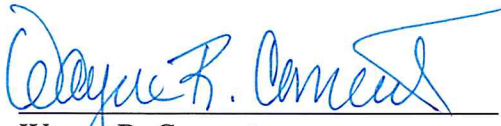

Tammy K. Vock
City Clerk


Jay Kramer
Mayor

[Seal]

Approved as to form and
legal sufficiency:

Approved as conforming to municipal
policy:


Wayne R. Coment
City Attorney


James R. O'Connor
City Manager