

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING STRONG OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA GOVERNOR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, AND EACH OF THE MUNICIPALITIES IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.**

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has expressed interest in opening the waters off the coast of Florida to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting that disturbs, injures, and kills marine mammals and other marine wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2018, the Department of the Interior released its draft 2019-2024 national Outer Continental Shelf (“OCS”) Oil and Gas Leasing Program (the “Program”) which governs when and where the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management can offer offshore drilling leases to the oil and gas industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the Program proposes to open over 90% of total OCS acreage to dirty and dangerous offshore drilling which would open the Atlantic and Pacific to drilling for the first time in three decades and outlines the largest number of potential offshore leases ever offered by any president; and

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and 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 proposals threaten the continued prosperity of coastal communities and states whose economies are inextricably linked to clean, oil-free shorelines; and

**WHEREAS**, communities along the Atlantic Coast rely on healthy ocean ecosystems to support jobs in fishing, recreation and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's coasts which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous

industries and serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational commercially important fisheries; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami 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**, 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 finds it more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy, such as solar and wind, which 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 Mayor and City Commission find that expressing its opposition to offshore drilling activities, including seismic airgun blasting, is in the best interests of its citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA**, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby express strong opposition to offshore drilling activities, including seismic airgun blasting; and authorize and direct the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Florida Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the Florida League of Cities, the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, the Board of County Commissioners for Miami-Dade County, and each of the municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 16th day of **September**, 2020.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gelber, Mayor

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Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Micky Steinberg)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

    Dan Gelber              9/3/20      
City Attorney                      Date  
FA