

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA URGING THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT TO REVOKE OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING EXPLORATION LICENSES AND PERMANENTLY BAN OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN THE BAHAMAS

WHEREAS, the Bahamas Petroleum Company (“BPC”) has been granted an offshore oil drilling exploration license by the Bahamian government that allows them to construct offshore oil drilling wells 150 miles off the coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources by BPC poses a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage that impact the Bahamas and coastal communities in the Caribbean and Florida; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to vacation destinations in the Caribbean and along Florida’s coasts, which provide economic value for numerous industries, essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables is one of numerous coastal communities in Florida and the Caribbean whose marine habitats, industries, and public health could be devastated by offshore drilling oil spill originating in the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, in Resolution 2018-235 the City Commission expressed its opposition to offshore drilling and exploration activities in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City endeavors to protect the environmental health of all marine habitats in the Caribbean and the Atlantic, and particularly, off the coast of the City and Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida may not effectively address the long-term economic diversification goals of the Bahamas, and would likely substantially damage the tourism sector of the Bahamian economy; and

WHEREAS, the City urges the Bahamian government to revoke BPC’s offshore oil drilling exploration license and permanently ban offshore oil drilling activities in the Bahamas, and further urges Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida to oppose such offshore oil drilling and work with the Bahamian government in such efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:


SECTION 1. That the foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.


SECTION 2. That the City of Coral Gables City Commission urges the Bahamian government to revoke offshore oil drilling exploration licenses issued to Bahamas Petroleum Company and urges the Bahamian government to permanently ban all offshore oil drilling activities in the Bahamas. The City of Coral Gables City Commission further urges Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida to oppose such offshore oil drilling and work with the Bahamian government in such efforts

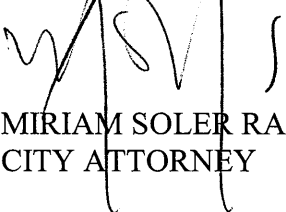
SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Minnis and Bahamian Ambassador to the United States, Sidney S. Collie, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Governor Ron DeSantis on behalf of the State of Florida, and to all municipalities in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWELFTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D., 2021.
(Moved: Lago / Seconded: Keon)
(Yeas: Lago, Mena, Fors, Jr., Keon, Valdes-Fauli)
(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)
(Agenda Item: G-4)

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

RAUL VALDES-FAULI
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY