

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2018-\_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA EXPRESSING ITS OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIR GUN BLASTING, AND MAKING OPPOSITION TO SAID ACTIVITIES PART OF THE CITY'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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

**WHEREAS**, seismic air guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every ten (10) to twelve (12) seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and

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

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic 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 activities pose threats to municipalities 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables contains over forty (40) miles of coastline, waterways, and canals, which provide habitat for fish and wildlife, opportunities for recreation, and an enhanced quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables 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**, the City of Coral Gables has long been involved in efforts to keep the City's and region's waterways healthy and safe for residents, visitors, and those fish and wildlife that inhabit the waters around the City; 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 of Coral Gables suggests 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 before using uncertain methods of seismic air gun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coral Gables directs that opposition to offshore drilling and exploration activities, seismic air gun blasting, and any related activities be made a part of the City's Legislative agenda.

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

SECTION 1. 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 Commission expresses its opposition to offshore drilling and exploration activities, including seismic air gun blasting, in the state of Florida, and makes opposition to those activities part of the City's legislative agenda.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Governor of Florida, the City's state legislative delegation, the Florida Congressional Delegation, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, and U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

SECTION 3. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ELEVENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D., 2018.

APPROVED:

RAUL VALDES-FAULI

MAYOR

ATTEST:

WALTER J. FOEMAN  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS  
CITY ATTORNEY