

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE PETROLEUM DRILLING; MAKING FINDINGS; OPPOSING THE LIFTING OF THE MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE PETROLEUM DRILLING AND SUPPORTING THE SEARCH OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES, PROTECTING FLORIDA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY, AND PRESERVING FLORIDA'S BEACHES; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION.**

**WHEREAS**, a Congressional ban against offshore drilling has been in effect since 1981, the purpose of which was to reduce the chance of environmental damage from oil spills that would significantly harm Florida's tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2003 Congressional report., increasing offshore production would not displace enough in petroleum imports to reduce US, reliance on foreign oil; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2007 report by the U.S. Department of Energy shows that opening the Florida coast to drilling would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil prices before the year 2030, if ever; that it is not economically feasible to drill for oil in certain offshore areas; and that even if all available areas were opened, at the peak of production, it would have little, if any, effect on price: and

**WHEREAS**, the previous findings were corroborated in a June 2008 report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research; showing that had Congress continued to increase fuel efficiency standards over the past 22 years, we would now have 16 times the savings in oil consumption than we could achieve by drilling for the next 20 years in now-protected areas; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 80 percent of estimated U.S. oil reserves are already currently available to exploration and more than 68 million acres are available to drill, and the U.S. is the third largest oil producer at over seven million barrels of oil per day; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of the Florida Chamber of Commerce's and others' position that oil demand will grow, a study by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory found that America used less coal and petroleum energy in 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of the Florida Chamber of Commerce's and other's position that new technology has made offshore drilling safe and environmentally friendly with no major spills in over 30 years and they are proposing drilling three to six miles offshore, oil companies with this new technology still legally pollute by dumping drilling waste mud, cuttings, drainage and other matter every day that contain toxic waste, including heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, and carcinogens such as benzene, toluene and arsenic; and

**WHEREAS**, not only do these wells pollute as part of normal production, but they are also susceptible to accidents, incidents, and weather; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed over 113 platforms and Hurricane Rita another 11 platforms, resulting in the destruction of 124 platforms and 741,000 gallons of oil spilled; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2005 hurricanes have destroyed or damaged 378 rigs/platforms, more than 1 million gallons of petroleum have been spilled and many are still leaking today; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, a cargo vessel, Cosco Busan, hit the Bay Bridge spilling 58,000 of bunker fuel into San Francisco Bay, and as recently as July 2009, a Shell Oil Company underground pipeline just 30 miles offshore leaked over 58,000 gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico covering over 80 square miles, and the leak continued without knowledge of the source for over two days; and

**WHEREAS**, environmental impacts from oil can last for over 10 years, as witnessed in Alaska after the Exxon Valdez incident, and the latest government documents show as production goes up, so do spills; and

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**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sisskin of Gulf Coast Environmental Defense predicts at least one spill per year; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2005 study by Florida Atlantic University and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, beach tourism alone contributed \$37.2 billion in state revenue in 2004 and tourism in general accounts for one-third of Florida's budget revenues annually; and

**WHEREAS**, many people visit, live and work in Florida for its fishing, swimming, surfing, diving, boating, and pristine beaches and clean and natural environment, and Florida is dependent on an overall \$65 billion per year generated by the tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, in July, 2009, a bipartisan letter from both Florida senators and 22 of 25 Florida house members was sent to Congress urging it not to expand offshore drilling, and many forward-thinking state senators and representatives also oppose Florida offshore drilling; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's leaders and all Americans should be pursuing an energy policy that promotes responsibility and renewability based on sound science, honesty and facts; and

**WHEREAS**, continuing to drill for oil off-shore inhibits implementation of an energy policy based on responsibility and renewability.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SPACE COAST LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., that:**

**SECTION 1.** That the City Commission of the City of Cocoa Beach Florida, is opposed to any attempt to lift the moratorium on offshore drilling off the coast of Florida. Rather than to pursue this destructive, divisive, outdated, and economically short-sighted and unsustainable policy, the City of Cocoa Beach supports a concept of leading our state and nation to cleaner alternative energy, preserving Florida's beaches, and protecting Florida's tourism industry.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution will be forwarded to: Space Coast League of Cities; the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners; Members of the Brevard County Legislative Delegation; the President of the Florida Senate; the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives; the Governor of the State of Florida. The President of the Florida Senate and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives is requested to assure that the resolution is distributed to all members of the Florida Legislature.

**SECTION 3.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

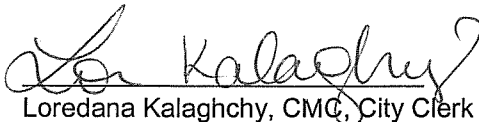
**SECTION 4.** This Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Cocoa Beach, Florida, on the 7th day of January, 2010.

CITY OF COCOA BEACH

Leon "Skip" Beeler, Mayor

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

  
Loredana Kalaghchy, CMC, City Clerk

Ayes: 3  
Nays: 2  
Absent: 0

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Williams and seconded by Commissioner Griffin.