

RESOLUTION NO. 60-2009 OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OIL DRILLING IN FLORIDA'S WATERS IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION.

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 and to protect our tourism industry; 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 the OCS; 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 that we could achieve by drilling for the next 20 years in now-protected areas; and

WHEREAS, Florida's economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism industry, which resulted in more than 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008, during which period tourism generated over \$4.0 billion in taxable sales; and

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one-third of Florida's budget revenue and 96% of those visitors cite the beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit Florida; 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, tax revenues generated from Florida's growing tourism industry are critical to continued funding of essential governmental services, including transportation, schools, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge which contains drilling fluids and heavy metals including mercury; and

WHEREAS, According to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and may contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations; and

WHEREAS, lifting the moratorium on mineral leasing in Florida territorial waters poses an intolerable threat to the beaches, eco-systems, waterways, and economy of Florida:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION TO THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. We strongly encourage all elected officials at the City, County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow offshore oil drilling expansion past the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities; and

Section 2. To take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternative sources of non-fossil fuel renewable energy.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

The passage of this Resolution was moved by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Vice Mayor Golden, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Mayor René A. Varela	AYE
Vice Mayor Jo-Ann Golden	AYE
Commissioner Scott Maxwell	AYE
Commissioner Cara Jennings	AYE
Commissioner Suzanne Mulvehill	AYE


The Mayor thereupon declared this Resolution duly passed and adopted this 15th day of December, 2009.

LAKE WORTH CITY COMMISSION



Mayor René A. Varela

ATTEST:



City Clerk Pamela J. Lopez

