

RESOLUTION NO. 09R-2129

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFF-SHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION; SUPPORTING THE CURRENT POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING EXPANSION OF OIL OR GAS DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO; FURTHER SUPPORTING THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS SUNLIGHT, WIND, RAIN, TIDES, AND GEOTHERMAL HEAT; PROVIDING FOR READING BY TITLE ONLY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City and County of Sarasota, located on the eastern coast of the Gulf of Mexico, are renown worldwide for spectacular beaches, the clear, warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico providing ideal swimming, and excellent snorkeling and scuba diving; and

WHEREAS, the local economy depends heavily on the tourism industry which is critical to continued funding of essential governmental services such as transportation, schools, and public safety and visitors consistently cite the beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit our area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota is fully cognizant that increasing energy costs result in a need to seek alternative energy sources which must not, however, endanger our environment and fragile marine ecosystems or threaten our economic future; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sarasota is dedicated to preserving the beauty of our coastal treasures by keeping beaches free of unsightly oil rigs and offshore drilling and pipeline construction which may cause significant damage to aquatic life, wildlife, sea grasses, coral reefs, mangroves, and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off our western Florida coast beaches, has the greatest potential for environmental damage and, despite technological advances, off-shore drilling resulting in even a small oil spill could result in significant damage to our coastline, beaches, and plant and fish life; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission strongly opposes approval of any expansion of off-shore drilling within State waters and supports the current policy of not allowing expansion of oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and further supports encouraging and assisting in the development of renewable alternative sources of energy such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the approval of off-shore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico in areas other than those already approved for oil leasing and oil exploration is strongly opposed.

Section 2. That the current policy of not allowing expansion of oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico is supported.

Section 3. That encouragement and assistance in the development of renewable alternative sources of energy such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat is further supported.

Section 4. That the City Auditor and Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Florida Governor Charlie Crist, State Senate President Jeff Atwater, Speaker of the State House of Representatives Larry Cretul, and the local Legislative Delegation.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Sarasota, Florida, upon reading by title only, after posting on the bulletin board at City Hall for at least three (3) days prior to adoption, as authorized by Article IV, Section of the Charter of the City of Sarasota this 5th day of October, 2009.

CITY OF SARASOTA

Richard Clapp, Mayor

Attest:

Billy E. Robinson
City Auditor and Clerk