BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 52-2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, OPPOSING PLANS BY THE U.S. BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT TO OPEN THE MID AND SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND ASSOCIATED EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is in the process of opening the mid and South Atlantic Ocean to the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas resources through the use of dangerous technologies such as seismic blasting; and

WHEREAS, seismic blasting is a method of seafloor surveying that utilizes intense blasts of compressed air through high-powered air-guns in order to map offshore oil and gas reserves, thereby creating a loud disturbance of manmade sound registering between 200 and 230 decibels, at a duration and frequency of occurrence that may be harmful to marine and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require the construction of significant onshore and offshore infrastructure, such as pipelines, platforms, and refineries, which may, in many instances, radically alter the natural beauty and character of our coast; and

WHEREAS, more than 6,500 oil spills occurred in U.S. waters between 2007 and 2017, and many spills have been found to be far larger than what was initially reported; and

WHEREAS, oil spills cannot be effectively cleaned up to prevent catastrophic harm as methods for doing so have remained largely unchanged for decades; and

WHEREAS, following the BP "Deepwater Horizon" oil spill in 2010; clean-up costs alone amounted to more than $14 billion, which had irreparable, disastrous consequences for impacted coastal areas and their environment; and

WHEREAS, taxpayers may be burdened when financially at-risk companies fail to decommission their infrastructural facilities after production ends, despite federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stuart endeavors to be a good steward of the natural environment and its resources including environmental advocacy at state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Stuart believes that the expansion of offshore drilling and associated exploration activities to the mid and South Atlantic Ocean would unreasonably alter the natural beauty of the unmarred coastline, while threatening both the natural environment and economy of communities like Stuart.

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

SECTION 1: The foregoing precatory language is adopted as if set forth below.

SECTION 2: The City Commission of the City of Stuart, Florida authorizes this resolution in opposition to plans by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to open the mid and South Atlantic Ocean to the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas production, as this would endanger the lives and livelihoods of both city residents and natural marine life.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and a copy shall be sent to the Members of Congress who comprise the local federal delegation.

Resolution No. 52-2019
Opposing Offshore Oil Drilling and Other Associated Explorative Activities

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
REBECCA S. BRUNER, MAYOR				
EULA R. CLARKE, VICE MAYOR				
KELLI GLASS LEIGHTON, COMMISSIONER				
MERRITT MATHESON, COMMISSIONER				
MIKE MEIER, COMMISSIONER				

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

_____
MARY R. KINDEL
CITY CLERK

_____
REBECCA S. BRUNER
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

_____
MICHAEL MORTELL
CITY ATTORNEY