

RESOLUTION NO. 21R-02-31

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA, URGING THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT TO STOP ANY OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING EXPLORATION THAT MAY ALREADY BE UNDER WAY AND PERMANENTLY BANNING OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES IN THE BAHAMAS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE (REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER SARAI "RAY" MARTIN)

WHEREAS, the Bahamas Petroleum Company ("BPC") has been granted an offshore oil drilling exploration license by the Bahamian government that allows them to construct exploratory offshore oil drilling wells 150 miles off the coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources by BPC poses a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage that may adversely impact the Bahamas and coastal communities in the Caribbean and Florida; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations in the Caribbean and along Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries and countries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Congress of the United States have expressed their concern that the offshore drilling project agreement directly conflicts with the urgent call made at the United Nations just last year to protect and address devastating impacts to island nations such as the Bahamas; any continued drilling may put the Atlantic coast as risk of severe and even catastrophic impacts from any spills that may occur (See attached Exhibit "A"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Lauderhill ("City") is one of numerous communities in Florida and in the Caribbean whose local or nearby marine habitats, industries, and public health may be devastated by offshore drilling oil spills originating in the Bahamas; and

WHEREAS, the City endeavors to protect the environmental health of all marine habitats, and, particularly, Biscayne Bay; and

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the Bahamian coast may not effectively address the long-term

economic diversification goals of the Bahamas, and would likely substantially damage the tourism sector of the Bahamian economy, which makes up sixty percent of the country's economy; and

WHEREAS, the City urges the Bahamian government to stop any offshore oil drilling exploration that may already be under way and to permanently ban offshore oil drilling activities in the Bahamas, and further urges Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida to oppose such offshore oil drilling and work with the Bahamian government in such efforts;

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

Section 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are made a specific part of this Resolution and incorporates the exhibits herein.

Section 2. The City Commission respectfully urges the Bahamian government to stop any offshore oil drilling exploration that may already be under way and further urges the Bahamian government to permanently ban all offshore oil drilling activities in the Bahamas. The City Commission further urges Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida to oppose such offshore oil drilling and to work with the Bahamian government in such efforts.

Section 3. The City Commission hereby directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Minnis, the Bahamian Ambassador to the U.S. Sidney S. Collie, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, Governor Ron Desantis on behalf of the State of Florida, all municipalities in Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Broward County, Florida, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, the Broward County League of Cities, the Broward Delegation, U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, U.S. Senator Rick Scott, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the media, and all other interested persons.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on first reading this _____ day of _____, 2021.

PRESIDING OFFICER

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MOTION
SECOND

M. DUNN
D. GRANT
L. MARTIN
S. MARTIN
K. THURSTON

Approved as to Form

W. Earl Hall
City Attorney