

RESOLUTION NO. 09-273

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF  
THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, OPPOSING  
OIL DRILLING IN WATERS OFF FLORIDA'S  
COASTLINE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE**

WHEREAS, Key West and the surrounding Florida Keys waters contain some of the most environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas in the world.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has recognized the importance of the area by the designation of the Key West and Florida Keys Areas of Critical State Concern; and

WHEREAS, our coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses, beaches, fisheries, endangered species, tourism and quality of life depend upon clean ocean waters.

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 is a primary component of the economy of the City of Key West; and

WHEREAS, tax revenues generated from Florida's growing tourism industry are critical to continued funding of essential governmental services; and

WHEREAS, the testing and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a unique and irreplaceable national security asset that provides critical live-fire testing and training opportunities that are incompatible with mineral exploration and extraction; and

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida, including the Florida Keys; 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, the impacts of drilling contaminants and spills caused by offshore oil development can be carried by great distances by the Gulf Loop Current onto Florida's coasts.

WHEREAS 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, permitting the expansion of oil exploration in the Gulf of Mexico poses an intolerable threat to the beaches, waterways, economy of Florida, and national security.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the Key West City Commission strongly encourages all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow offshore oil drilling expansion and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternative sources of energy.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this Resolution to State Senator Larcenia

Bullard, State Representative Ron Saunders and Florida Governor Charlie Crist along with other interested elected officials.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the presiding officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this 4th day of November, 2009.

Authenticated by the presiding officer and Clerk of the Commission on November 5, 2009.

Filed with the Clerk November 5, 2009.

  
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CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK