

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HOLMES BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF AMERICA; AFFIRMING THE CITY'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING ITS COASTAL RESOURCES, ECONOMIC VITALITY, AND ENVIRONMENT; REQUESTING ACTION FROM STATE AND FEDERAL LEADERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Holmes Beach is a coastal municipality on a barrier island that is dependent on clean water, white sand beaches, and thriving marine ecosystems that support a robust tourism and recreation economy vital to the well-being and identity of its residents, businesses, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City's economy, public health, and ecological integrity would be significantly threatened by offshore drilling and its associated risks, including oil spills, industrial pollution, and degradation of marine habitats essential to Florida's commercial and recreational fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior's recent 2026–2031 offshore leasing program includes proposed leasing in the newly designated “South-Central Gulf of America” area, which poses potential risk to Florida's Gulf Coast and is strongly opposed by coastal communities and bipartisan state leadership; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of America resulted in the largest marine oil spill in history, causing extensive and lasting environmental, economic, and public health harm across Florida's coastline, including impacts to the City's marine ecosystems, fisheries, tourism economy, and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, coastal tourism, fishing, and outdoor recreation industries generate over \$250 billion annually and support millions of jobs in the United States, far exceeding the economic output of offshore drilling in the region, and must be protected as cornerstones of Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, Florida voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment in 2018, as reflected in Article II, § 7 of the Florida Constitution, banning oil drilling in state waters, and Florida's entire Congressional delegation has consistently urged continued federal protection for waters off Florida's coast; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2025, Florida's Congressional delegation issued a bipartisan letter to the Executive Branch expressing strong opposition to any expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling off Florida's coasts (the “Congressional Letter”), citing threats to the Gulf Test Range, environmental assets, and economic resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Letter urged the Executive Branch to honor its 2020 moratorium on oil and gas leasing off Florida's gulf and east coasts through 2032; and

WHEREAS, other coastal communities and municipalities in Florida have, through resolutions, expressed their opposition to the expansion of oil and gas leasing along and adjacent to Florida's coastline; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Holmes Beach, as stewards of the public trust, deems it critical to take a stance to protect and preserve the City’s environment and resources for the public health, safety, and welfare.

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

Section 1. The City of Holmes Beach hereby opposes any expansion of offshore oil or gas drilling in the Eastern Gulf of America and urges the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and all relevant state and federal officers and agencies to exclude Florida’s Gulf waters from any new leasing program.

Section 2. The City supports legislation, executive action, and regulatory efforts, including but not limited to the Florida Coastal Protection Act and the American Shores Protection Act, which seek to permanently ban offshore oil and gas drilling near Florida’s coastline.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Holmes Beach, Florida, upon reading by title only, this ___ day of _____, 2026.

Dan Diggins

Jessica Patel

Terry Schaefer

Carol Whitmore

Steve Olfke

APPROVED BY ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025

Judy Titsworth, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacey Johnston, MMC, CBTO
City Clerk, City of Holmes Beach