

COUNCIL AGENDA
NEW BUSINESS ITEM

TO: The Mayor and Members of City Council

DATE: September 9, 2009

COUNCIL

DATE: September 10, 2009

RE: Oil Drilling

ACTION DESIRED:

Respectfully requesting City Council adopt a resolution opposing the expansion of off shore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

Attachment

Karl Nurse
City Council

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE OIL DRILING WITHIN THREE MILES OF ST. PETESBURG'S COAST; REQUESTING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATION NOT TAKE UP THIS MATTER IN A SPECIAL SESSION IN NOVMBER, 2009; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one third of budget revenues statewide and 96% of visitors cite the beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit Florida; and

WHEREAS, tourist tax collections exceeded \$513,000,000 in fiscal year 2007 and more than 91,000 Floridians are employed in businesses that directly or indirectly support tourist; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg's economy is heavily tied to clean beaches which then attract visitors to our businesses and art venues; and

WHEREAS, half of Tropicana Field payments are directly made by tourist tax; and

WHEREAS, the oil industry is proposing to place oil wells within three miles of our coasts and puts at risk our largest industry and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the oil industry lobby is pushing for a special session in November in hopes of preying on the State's tight financial condition to reverse a 28 year ban on oil drilling off of Florida's coast.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida as follows:

1. The City of St. Petersburg, Florida requests the Governor not call a special session of the Florida Legislature in an attempt to rush through this proposal which risks St. Petersburg's economy and quality of life.
2. That before additional expansion of drilling areas in the Gulf of Mexico be considered, that the significant expansion recently allowed by explored.
3. That the City of St. Petersburg will continue to take steps to become more energy efficient, add renewable energy projects and institute efforts to encourage the City's residents to do the same.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Approved as to form and content:

City Attorney (designee)