

RESOLUTION No. 00-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTIC BEACH, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS WHOSE RESIDENCES FRONT THE ATLANTIC OCEAN WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF ATLANTIC BEACH BE MADE AWARE OF THE SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON EACH YEAR (May 1 through October 31)

WHEREAS, the City of Atlantic Beach is aware of the problem that artificial lighting illuminating from property that fronts the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, if artificial lighting illuminates towards the ocean, it might cause confusion to a female sea turtle coming ashore to lay her eggs; and

WHEREAS, if artificial lighting illuminates towards the ocean, it might cause hatchlings to become confused and not seek the ocean when emerging from their nest; and

WHEREAS, artificial lighting need not be prohibited if it can be properly managed. Artificial lighting is properly managed if it cannot be seen from the beach; and

WHEREAS, the homeowners whose property fronts the Atlantic Ocean in the City of Atlantic Beach are reminded each year by the efforts of the **Beaches Sea Turtle Patrol, Inc.**, headquartered in Atlantic Beach, and have voluntarily cooperated each year in reducing or eliminating artificial lighting that illuminates towards the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the homeowners' voluntary cooperation constitutes that which is referred in **Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI Technical Report TR-2 of 1996)** Florida Department of Environmental Protection is an effective conservation strategy which simply is to use the Best Available Technology (BAT: a common strategy for reducing other forms of pollution by using the best of the pollution-reduction technologies available) to reduce effects from lighting as much as practicable; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary elimination of beach-front artificial lighting has produced exceptional results during the past and the current sea turtle nesting seasons between the hours of sunset and sunrise.

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

Section 1. The City of Atlantic Beach will request by a letter signed by the City Manager in April of each year, that all ocean-front property owners within the limits of Atlantic Beach, voluntarily eliminate the use of and or shining of artificial lighting towards the Atlantic Ocean between the hours of sunset and sunrise from May 1 through October 31 (nesting season). This is utilization of the simplest Best Available Technology to ensure the maximum protection for sea turtles on the beach of Atlantic Beach, Florida.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage and adoption.

Passed by the City Commission of Atlantic Beach this 24th day of July, 2000.



JOHN S. MESERVE
Mayor/Presiding Officer

Approved as to form and correctness:



ALAN C. JENSEN, ESQUIRE
City Attorney

ATTEST:



MAUREEN KING
City Clerk