

RESOLUTION NO. 15 - 2286

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE HB 1233 AND REJECT ANY AND ALL EXPANSIONS OF DESTINATION RESORTS AND GAMBLING IN FLORIDA; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, in order to raise awareness about the effects of gambling, the Town of Surfside (the "Town") by Resolution No. 2011-2013 proclaimed the week of March 6-12, 2011 as Problem Gambling Awareness week; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 11-2034 the Town opposed any initiative to amend Florida's Constitution to allow casino gambling in Surfside; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town urged the Florida Legislature to reject any and all expansions of gambling in Florida by passing Resolution No. 2012-2066; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1233, known as the Florida Gaming Control Act of 2015 proposes a broad spectrum of legislative changes and incentives for the expansion of gaming and destination resorts in Florida, including the pre-emption of local ordinances relating to limiting gaming in municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, if located near or in Surfside, the community will have to bear the severe and painful economic and social costs that accompany expansive gambling, including reached consequences such as the misery of individuals and families touched by problem gambling as they are at higher risk of divorce, bankruptcy, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the assurances of gambling promoters, historically, large scale casino operations cannibalize non-gambling businesses causing, for instance, the shuttering of forty percent of all restaurants and one-third of all retail businesses in Atlantic City; and

**WHEREAS**, expanded gambling may also bring corruption of the governmental process as immensely wealthy gambling companies from all over the world seek to receive benefits from the local and state governments that regulate their existence and profits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town believes that should gambling interests be allowed to obtain major casino expansion, in addition to social issues, the quality of life will be denigrated by the exacerbation of traffic and the potential destruction of otherwise commercially viable businesses in our community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** That the Town of Surfside, Florida urges the Florida Legislature to oppose adoption of HB 1233 or any legislation to expand gambling, including legislation to legalize “destination resorts” in Florida or legislation to preempt municipalities from enacting ordinances to limit gambling.

**Section 2. Implementation.** The Mayor and the Town Manager are hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary to implement this Resolution.

**Section 3. Direction to the Town Clerk.** The Town Clerk is hereby directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the Florida Legislature.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Karukin,

Second by Mayor Dietch.

**FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION**

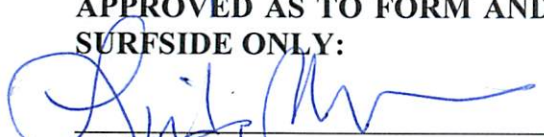
Commissioner Barry Cohen  
Commissioner Michael Karukin  
Commissioner Marta Olchyk  
Vice Mayor Eli Tourgeman  
Mayor Daniel Dietch

yes  
yes  
yes  
yes  
yes.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Dietch, Mayor

**ATTEST:**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra Novoa, Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:**

  
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Linda Miller, Town Attorney