

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 2402

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA URGING THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO ADHERE TO STRICTER STANDARDS AND TO CONTINUE TO MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THEIR CONSIDERATION OF FLORIDA'S PROPOSED HUMAN HEALTH-BASED WATER QUALITY CRITERIA; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA GOVERNOR, FLORIDA SENATE PRESIDENT, HOUSE SPEAKER, CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside strives to provide its citizens and visitors with clean water for all uses and activities, as clean water is vital to the health of Florida's environment, citizens, and economy; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2016, the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission approved proposed Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria (HHWQC) by a 3 to 2 vote; and

WHEREAS, the Town supports the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) lowering the acceptable level of pollution for many of the previously regulated chemicals, and the use of an external Human Health Peer Review Committee to examine much of FDEP's technical approach; and

WHEREAS, HHWQC weakens criteria for 15 toxic chemicals, including four known carcinogens; and

WHEREAS, HHWQC does not set standards for 20 pollutants that the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had provided proposed criteria to regulate; and

WHEREAS, the rule has relaxed standards for toxins such as benzene which may not offer an adequate level of protection for human health; and

WHEREAS, new, higher allowable levels mean that more of those chemicals will flow into the state's seafood and potable surface waters thus increasing the potential

for human and environmental exposure to these chemicals Florida waters that are used for sources of drinking water, shellfish harvesting, fishing and swimming; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County, and many other local governments including the Town of Surfside have organized extensive efforts to protect water resources in many other ways, including Everglades restoration, measures to prevent saltwater intrusion, and the establishment of water quality programs to reduce nutrient pollution and contamination from human and animal waste products; and

WHEREAS, the weakening of Florida's water quality criteria may encourage more industrial discharge including new highly polluting industrial activities such as oil and gas drilling (including fracking operations), to locate in Florida to the detriment of the safety of our State waters and the public; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission of Surfside finds that Florida Department of Environmental Protection's weakening of water quality standards for toxic chemicals and thereby allowing an increase in the potential of discharge of these toxic chemicals into Florida waters is not in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Surfside.

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

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Urging by the Town of Surfside Commission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen water quality standards in Florida's Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria. Town Commission of Surfside urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to adhere to stricter standards and continue to maximize opportunities for the protection of public health and the environment in their consideration of Florida's Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria and to meet federal standards under §303(c)(3) of the Clean Water Act when the rule is formally submitted to the EPA.

Section 3. Urging by the Town of Surfside Commission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for Public Participation on Florida's Human Health-Based Water Quality Criteria. The Town of Surfside urges the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to hold more public meetings and to accept public comment on the proposed rule.

Section 4. Authorization and Implementation. That the Town Manager and his designee are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all action necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Section 5. Direction to the Town Clerk. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Florida Governor, Florida Senate President, House Speaker, Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative

Delegation, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Director of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of November, 2016.

Motion by Commissioner Paul.

Second by Commissioner Karukin.

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

Commissioner Daniel Gielchinsky	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Michael Karukin	<u>yes</u>
Commissioner Tina Paul	<u>yes</u>
Vice Mayor Barry Cohen	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Daniel Dietch	<u>yes</u>



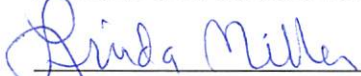
Daniel Dietch, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Novoa, MMC, Town Clerk

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



Linda Miller, Town Attorney