

2009 RESOLUTION - SUPPORT FOR ANTI-IDLING INITIATIVES

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, fine particulates, and a multitude of potentially harmful pollutants that can trigger asthma attacks and other ailments; and

WHEREAS, asthma is a significant public health concern in NJ, especially among children (up to 25% of NJ's school age children are asthmatic) and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, for every gallon of gasoline used, the average car produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the largest contributor to greenhouse climate change, with one-third of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, we can avoid producing unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions and exposure to air toxics by reducing or eliminating wasteful vehicle idling; and

WHEREAS, petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are nonrenewable fuels and should be used wisely and not wasted; and

WHEREAS, idling is not beneficial to a vehicle's engine because it wears engine parts; and

WHEREAS, idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning a warm engine off and on again; and

WHEREAS, idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles; and

WHEREAS, vehicle idling occurs in locations (e.g. school grounds, parking lots, drive-through windows, business centers, etc.) where New Jerseyans can be exposed to air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Administrative Code, State of New Jersey Motor Vehicle Statutes, Motor Vehicle and Traffic Act, and Air Pollution Control Act restrict idling to no more than 3 minutes (with limited exceptions), and fines of \$250 are stipulated for first offense and up to \$3,000 for multiple offenses; and

WHEREAS, moving beyond New Jersey's existing no-idling code of 3 minutes* would significantly improve public health, air quality, reduce costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield, County of Essex, designates September 2009 as "Anti-Idling Month" to raise awareness of the dangers of vehicle idling and encourage actions to reduce idling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council support initiatives to reduce idling throughout the Township, including:

- Encouraging the owner and operator of any gasoline or diesel powered motor vehicle* to turn off their engines after 10 seconds if they plan to remain at that location for more than 30 seconds; and
- Supporting the adoption of "Idle Free Zones" by government agencies, schools, businesses, and other organizations; and
- Ensuring idling does not occur at idle-frequent locations such as school drop-off and pick up, drive through windows, gas stations, parking lots, business centers, etc ; and
- Maintaining municipal vehicles to eliminate any visible exhaust; and
- Enforcing existing violations and penalties under NJ's existing no-idling code*; and
- Supporting broad education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLED, that the Mayor and Council directs the Township Administrator, in cooperation with the Police Department and Greener Bloomfield to

establish a Township Anti-Idling Policy that: educates the public that idling for longer than 3 minutes is illegal includes instructions on how to enforce the regulation, and includes an anti-idling policy for municipal-owned vehicles, including police vehicles, (that does not infringe on safety), municipal contractors, such as garbage trucks.

* * *

I hereby certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bloomfield at a meeting of said Township Council held on August 10, 2009

Municipal Clerk of the Township of Bloomfield

Mayor of the Township of Bloomfield

ROLL CALL VOTE

MAYOR & COUNCIL	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
COUNCILWOMAN MALY				
COUNCILMAN JOANOW				
COUNCILMAN RUANE				
COUNCILWOMAN BARKER				
COUNCILWOMAN SPYCHALA				
COUNCILMAN HAMILTON				
MAYOR McCARTHY				

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