

RESOLUTION NO.: 153 - 2022
INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Thomas

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO IMPLEMENT A NO-IDLE POLICY IN ORDER TO REDUCE VEHICLE FUEL CONSUMPTION, REDUCE POLLUTION, AND PROMOTE CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT.

WHEREAS, the City is committed to promoting, maintaining, and monitoring energy saving measures in order to reduce vehicle fuel consumption for automobiles owned by the City and used in the daily operations of delivering services;

WHEREAS, all City staff/employees who use or drive City vehicles are expected to contribute to energy efficiency by understanding how to use fuel more efficiently;

WHEREAS, the implementation of the No-Idling Policy will save fuel and money while reducing pollution and promoting consciousness about the environment. Energy conservation measures such as the No-Idle Policy also reduce air pollution emissions, added heat load in the atmosphere and vehicle wear and tear;

WHEREAS, air pollution is a major public health concern in Ohio. Air pollution can cause or aggravate lung illnesses such as acute respiratory infections, asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and lung cancer. In addition to health impacts, air pollution imposes significant economic costs and negative impacts on our quality of life;

WHEREAS, exhaust from vehicles is a substantive source of ozone precursors in Ohio. Vehicle exhaust is also a source of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases. Although new engines have become leaner due to improved emission control technologies, the slow turnover in their inventory and number of miles/hours these vehicles idle each year is hindering progress in improving air quality;

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond Heights utilizes a fleet of approximately thirteen (13) medium and heavy-duty (diesel-powered) vehicles and twenty three (23) automobiles and light-duty (gasoline-powered) vehicles to carry out its municipal operations. Exhaust from these vehicles contains chemicals that form ground-level ozone (smog) and may contribute to global climate change. These pollutants may aggravate respiratory ailments (like asthma), cause lung damage, and may lead to cancer;

WHEREAS, vehicle idling can also produce avoidable wear and tear on engines. Because an idling engine operates below its optimum temperature, residue deposits can form within the engine to reduce fuel efficiency by five percent (5%) and diminish engine life. Lower operating temperatures can cause premature corrosion damage to exhaust piping and mufflers;

WHEREAS, through field tests, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers have shown that idling for just 10 seconds wastes more gas than restarting the engine. Idling is not an

effective way to warm up a vehicle. Even in winter, only 30 seconds is needed to warm the vehicle's engine. Other vehicle parts, such as the axles, do not warm up until the vehicle is driven;

WHEREAS, the No-Idle Policy is designed to promote the improvement of air quality while realizing significant savings in fuel and operating costs. Unnecessary idling of the City's fleet wastes approximately one (1) gallon of fuel per hour for diesel vehicles and roughly three-quarters (0.75) of a gallon of fuel per hour for automobiles or light-duty vehicles;

WHEREAS, implementation of this policy requires action and cooperation at all levels of the City organization;

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond Heights is committed to promoting and maintaining energy saving measures in its efforts to be responsible economically and environmentally;

WHEREAS, it is the City's desire to promote environmentally sustainable policies and practices for our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1: The Mayor is authorized to implement a No-Idle Policy substantially in the form of Exhibit A, attached hereto.

Section 2: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: November 22, 2022

APPROVED: November 22, 2022

Kim A. Thomas, Mayor

ATTEST: Betsy Traben
Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

Bobby Jordan
President of Council

EXHIBIT A

NO-IDLE POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to eliminate the unnecessary idling of vehicles by City staff/employees as part of an effort to reduce fuel consumption and reduce the City's environmental footprint.

An idling vehicle gets zero (0) miles per gallon. Idling vehicles produce unnecessary pollution that contribute to smog and health problems, causes premature engine wear and wastes fuel, which increases costs to taxpayers.

When a vehicle will be stopped from more than thirty (30) seconds, turning off the engine can have a dramatic impact on fuel consumption and the environment. All City departments will implement the Vehicle Idling Policy for all City vehicles as outlined below.

POLICY

This policy applies to all City staff/employees while operating any City owned vehicles unless otherwise listed as an exception below. It is recommended staff/employees adhere to this policy at any time they are performing City business in a vehicle that is not owned by the City.

Appropriate use of City vehicles includes the following:

- Vehicles will not park with the engine operating for more than thirty (30) seconds unless it is essential to the performance of the work being performed.
- Initial "warm up" idling should be minimized. If a vehicle's windows are clear, driving should start after no more than thirty (30) seconds.
- Initial "warm up" for diesel vehicles should be limited to three (3) to five (5) minutes, or as otherwise recommended by the vehicle's manufacturer.
- If the vehicle is going to be stopped for more than thirty (30) seconds, except as required while operating the vehicle in routine traffic, the engine should be turned off as idling for more than ten (10) seconds uses more fuel than it takes to restart the vehicle.

EXCEPTIONS

Due to the diverse nature of the City's vehicle fleet, exceptions are needed to the Vehicle Idling Policy. The provisions of the policy do not apply to:

- Emergency vehicles, such as public safety vehicles while engaged in operational activities;
- Vehicles that are required to idle for providing power for ancillary equipment mounted on the vehicle without risking damage to the battery;

- Public safety vehicles performing emergency operations, but only when the vehicle must be operating for the warning device or emergency systems to function;
- Vehicles equipped with temperature sensitive equipment;
- Public safety vehicles transporting prisoners, victims, or witnesses, or when performing traffic control;
- The primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle providing a power source necessary for mechanical operation of equipment required for job performance;
- A motor vehicle forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions over which the operator has not control;
- The primary engine of a motor vehicle being operated for maintenance or diagnostic purposes;
- The primary engine of a motor vehicle when necessary, to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency, but not solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers;
- During a period of any emergency, such as a tornado, ice storm, flood, or any other act of nature, the requirement may be waived by the Department Head or their designee.