

CITY OWNED VEHICLES IN BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Six*
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, the City of Burlington, through extensive public input and its own research, evaluation and deliberation, has examined and as a result unanimously passed an anti-idling ordinance (Article III, Section 20-55(e) – October 9, 1990) which prohibits idling of motor vehicles throughout the City and states as follows:

Sec. 20-55. General provisions.

(e) No person shall leave idling for more than five (5) minutes any motor vehicle in any area of the city during the period from April 1 of every year to November 1 of the same year*, except in the following instances:

- (1) Motors used to run refrigeration units may be left idling to permit uninterrupted refrigeration;
- (2) A motor vehicle may be left idling if necessary for the repair of that vehicle;
- (3) This provision shall not apply to motor vehicles which must be kept idling in order to install, maintain or repair equipment or infrastructure.
- (4) This provision shall not apply in any situation in which the health or safety of a driver or passenger requires the idling of the vehicle; and

WHEREAS, emissions from idling vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, climate change, and increased rates of respiratory diseases which disproportionately impact children, seniors, and people with weakened immune systems; and

WHEREAS, Burlington citizens, through the Legacy Project, have identified vehicle emissions as a high priority for the City of Burlington to address; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has endorsed the Ten Percent Challenge, a program sponsored by the Alliance for Climate Action; and

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WHEREAS, the Burlington School District has implemented no Idling policies pertaining to delivery trucks, buses and vehicles on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington and its employees own and operate numerous motor vehicles while engaging in City business; and

WHEREAS, several City departments, including the Burlington Electric Department and Burlington Parks and Recreation Department, have already moved to implement no idling policies for employees driving city owned vehicles; and

WHEREAS, questions have been raised by Burlington citizens regarding the consistent application and enforcement of the existing anti-idling ordinance in regards to City owned vehicles; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that City employees reduce fuel consumption and resulting vehicle emissions, and the City of Burlington take appropriate measures to improve the health of city residents and to protect the environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in consideration of the equal application of City ordinances prohibiting unnecessary idling of motor vehicles (Article III, Section 20-55(e)), the City Council directs City Departments heads to review operational procedures and institute policies immediately to comply with the existing city ordinance and refrain from unnecessary idling of city owned vehicles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the departments of Public Works, Parks and Recreation and Burlington Electric make recommendations for educating Burlington City employees regarding the danger to the environment and city residents caused by unnecessary idling of motor vehicles and that they provide “No Idling, It’s the Law” stickers (or other available logo) to be placed in the cabs of all city vehicles; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the City Attorney's office produce and post Memorandum in all City Offices and Departments regarding this No Idling Resolution.

lb/kas/c: Resolutions 2006/Idling of City Owned Motor Vehicles in Burlington
6/19/06

*As of December 31, 2009, changes in Burlington's anti-idling law include a reduction in allowed idling time from five to three minutes and elimination of the season exemption.