

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R8**

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, fine particulates; and

WHEREAS, numerous scientific studies have found links between exposure to fine particles and health effects including premature death, and increased incidents of asthma, allergies, and other breathing disorders; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has classified diesel exhaust as likely to be carcinogenic to humans; and

WHEREAS, vehicle idling occurs in locations (e.g. school grounds, parking lots, distribution centers, strip malls, construction sites, business centers, etc.) where residents can be exposed to concentrated sources of air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of fine particle emissions from diesel engines could prevent 16,000 new asthma cases annually and save \$770 million in health care and related costs in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, idling more than ten seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning an engine off and on again and wears engine parts; and

WHEREAS, current New Jersey state law prohibits the idling of vehicles for more than three minutes and studies have shown that an anti-idling policy will save fuel, prolong engine life, and improve air quality.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Watchung, County of Somerset, supports the adoption of a strong anti-idling policy by government agencies, schools, businesses, and other organizations by:

1. Enforcing New Jersey's existing no-idling law a priority pursuant to C. 39:3-70.2 and C. 26:2C-1.
2. Encouraging any gasoline or diesel-powered motor vehicle to turn off their engines immediately at schools and off-site school related events to minimize exposure of children to vehicle emissions.
3. Maintaining municipal vehicles to eliminate any visible exhaust and complying with the annual inspection requirement for these vehicles.
4. Promote the widespread use of emission controls in construction contracts.
5. Supporting broad education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling.


Christine B. Ead, Council President


Ronald Jubin, Ph.D., Mayor

ADOPTED: JANUARY 18, 2024
INDEX: MISC.
C: B. HANCE, GREEN TEAM
DPW, ENG, BOE, PD,