

2020-1013-126

Councilman Rubin offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IDLE FREE NEW JERSEY

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 an asthma attack and other ailments; and

WHEREAS, asthma is a significant public health concern in New Jersey, especially among children (up to 25% of New Jersey'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, the U.S. Argonne National Laboratory estimates that about 20 million barrels of diesel fuel are consumed each year by idling long-haul trucks (estimated truck emissions total about 10 million tons of CO₂, 50,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 2,000 tons of particulates?); 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 generally 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, 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; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Rumson: Supports the adoption of "Idle Free Zones" by government agencies, schools, businesses, and other organizations by:

- Encouraging 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.
- 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.
- Maintaining municipal vehicles to eliminate any visible exhaust.
- Enforcing existing violations and penalties under New Jersey's existing no-idling code.
- Supporting broad education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling.

Seconded by Council President Atwell and carried upon the following roll call vote:

In the affirmative: Atwell, Casazza, Conklin, Kingsbery, Rubin and Swikart.

In the negative: None.

Absent: None.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Rumson at a regular meeting held on October 13, 2020.



Thomas S. Rogers
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

