



June 30, 2020

Mayor and Council of Rumson

80 East River Road

Rumson, NJ 07760

Dear Mayor Hemphill and Members of the Rumson Borough Council,

As you are aware, according to Title 39 of the Motor Vehicle code 39:3-70.2, it is illegal to idle in the state of New Jersey. Idling, as defined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection website, “occurs when a motor vehicle with a diesel or gasoline engine is running but the vehicle is not in motion.” Idling can reap numerous detrimental effects to not only the environment, but also to humans and the vehicle itself. While a vehicle is idling, fuel is still combusting in the engine and the exhaust continues to release into the surrounding air. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Essentially, when you idle, you are wasting fuel and getting nowhere, burning both the environment and your wallets. Idling can be harmful to humans, especially children, because some of the exhaust chemicals from the vehicle are reintroduced to even the interior of the car at a higher concentration. Children are at a higher risk for two main reasons: they breathe about 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults, and their shorter height means they are closer to exhaust pipes while breathing. This means that they inhale more harmful chemicals and particulate matter (soot) that is released by the exhaust of vehicles, and a higher concentration of said chemicals and soot. The idling of a vehicle can also damage the car’s engine because the fuels are not combusted completely, so particulate

matter can clog the tubes and machinery within the engine. Ultimately, the few benefits of idling are outweighed by the countless detriments.

The Rumson Junior Green team has conducted an analysis of the borough in order to identify locations where idling is most likely to occur and to determine whether proper signage exists to inform residents and visitors of the code.

All of the middle and elementary schools in Rumson are places where idling occurs daily by parents, caretakers, and siblings waiting to pick up their children/siblings from school. In these lines, those picking up the child sometimes arrive up to thirty minutes early just to idle in their vehicles while their child/sibling is still in class. At both Forrestdale's front loop off of Forrest Avenue and back pick up loop off of Narumson Street, Holy Cross's curbside on Ward Avenue, Deane-Porter, and The Rumson Country Day School's curbside on Bellevue Avenue, idling occurs often. All of these schools combined account for numerous hours of idling every week. The children at these schools are at higher risk because of their size and age, as well. At present, there are only signs in the Deane Porter and Forrestdale loops.

The Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School parking lots are a location where extensive idling occurs. The high school has many students that idle in a variety of places—the “strip” lot on Forrest Avenue, Piping Rock's Parking lot, both senior lots, and all along Forrest Avenue, Carton Street, Black Point Road, and West Street. Students often have to arrive at school at 7:00 or earlier to get a spot closer to the building, meaning many of them idle for over thirty minutes before actually going into school. This accounts for multiple hours a week of idling, considering at least 150 students' vehicles are driven to RFH every day. The front loop at RFH also always has a long line of idling cars waiting to pick up students. The buses can also be found idling in that same loop. At present, there is no signage in these areas.

Because parents and guardians often wait for their children to finish playing in the parks, the Town's six public parks are at high risk of idling. Meadow Ridge Park, Piping Rock Park and Riverside Park all have large parking lots where idling is not specifically discouraged and is likely to occur. Similarly, the curbside parking adjacent to Victory Park, West Park, and Rogers Park see a frequent idling and signs would be helpful. Additionally, the Rumson-Fair Haven High School Rowing Team Dock next

to Victory Park and the Public Boat launch behind Borough Hall is also a location where many people idle while waiting for their children to finish rowing practice or waiting to launch or retrieve their boats. Others may frequent this lot just to sit and look at the water, too. While the Boat Launch does have one sign, the RFH Rowing parking lot does not. There are no signs in any of the municipal parks.

The Boat Launch adjacent to Barnacle Bill's also has multiple instances of idling daily. Many boaters leave their car running while they do maintenance on their boats, which is unnecessary because there is no reason to keep an unattended car on, and it has many detriments.

The curbside next to Brennan's Delicatessen on West River Road has many cases of idling. Patrons to the deli often leave their cars running expecting to run in and out of the location quickly, but find themselves inside in line for longer than expected, especially since this is a popular shop to get lunch and other foods. The parking lot at Brennan's also can be a popular place to idle for the same reasons previously stated.

Similarly, the other commercial district in Rumson on East River Road is a common victim of idling. Patrons of the town's many food venues will idle on East River Road's curbside while waiting for their food to be ready or while running to grab their items. The idling seems to be concentrated along the road nearest to The French Market, Cups and Cakes, and behind the boutiques sharing the building with The Atlantic Bagel Company. Behind the Rumson Fire House, there is a small parking lot where many town goers idle while running a quick errand. Civilians also go here to just sit and relax in their car when they have free time before their next activity or errand, as it is a rather private location.

Borough Hall, the Police Station, DPW, the parking lot opposite Bingham Hall, and the parking lot behind the fire station all see idling violations as residents and visitors stop in to pay fees, drop off prescription medications in dropbox, drop off recycling, wait at the boat launch or in parking lots. There are no signs in the commercial districts or any of the municipal parking lots.

If signs are strategically placed in the above mentioned locations, it will help to decrease the volume of idling taking place in Rumson and will serve as a reminder not to idle.

Respectfully Submitted,

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