



CITY OF DUNWOODY

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Tuller, Community Development Director

Date: October 19, 2009

Subject: No Idling Policy

In December, Mayor and Council chartered the Sustainability Commission to promote measures that encourage Dunwoody to work towards reducing the environmental footprint of the government through refinements to our policies, practices, buildings, and fleets. The Sustainability Commission has been working with staff to research and pursue measures towards attaining the Atlanta Regional Commission's Green Communities certification program. Many of these measures require action by Mayor and Council.

One of the measures the Commission is tackling this quarter is Measure 37, the Government No Idling Policy. This measure requires the City to pass a policy to limit vehicle idling times. This includes restricting the allowed time that municipal vehicles may idle when not directly engaged in the line of duty and establishing a procedure to educate employees about the policy.

The Sustainability Commission and staff have researched "No Idling" policies in surrounding jurisdictions. The City of Decatur, City of Roswell, City of Norcross, Cobb County, and the City of Macon all have policies limiting unnecessary idling. Additionally the Commission reviewed information and sample policies from the Clean Air Campaign. As such, the following attachment includes the proposed "No Idling" policy for the City of Dunwoody. The text to the policy was based on both similar policies in surrounding jurisdictions as well as information from Clean Air Campaign.

This policy would save tax dollars by reducing fuel consumption, reduce exposure to harmful emissions, and improve air quality. The policy would cover all City-owned vehicles as well as all vehicles operated by employees of the City whether on a full-time, part-time, or contractual third-party basis.

The policy has been reviewed by all City departments and their feedback has been incorporated. Specifically, based on feedback received from our Police Department, we have added narrowly tailored exceptions to allow for public safety operational activities such as idling to allow the powering of ancillary equipment mounted on the vehicle.

The Sustainability Commission has reviewed this policy and supports the concept of limiting idling as it would result in energy conservation and improve air quality. Additionally, by establishing a



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policy to limit unnecessary idling, the City of Dunwoody can serve as an example to our businesses and residents to conserve energy and improve air quality.

As this proposal does not amend any current ordinance but functions as an operating policy, this program consideration needs be read and voted on by Mayor and Council.



CITY OF DUNWOODY

NO IDLING

Article

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NO IDLING POLICY

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to eliminate the unnecessary idling of City vehicles and other rolling stock as part of an ongoing effort to reduce fuel consumption and reduce the City's environmental footprint. This document will clarify our policy to reduce fuel consumption and describe departmental relationships, responsibilities and participation in the No Idling Policy.

An idling vehicle gets 0 miles per gallon. Idling vehicles produce unnecessary pollution that contributes to climate change, smog and health problems, causes premature engine wear and wastes fuel which increases our costs to our taxpayers.

When a vehicle will be stopped for more than 30 seconds turning off the engine can have a dramatic impact on fuel consumption and the environment. All City departments and agencies shall implement the following No Idling Policy for all City vehicles:

II. Definitions

When used in this policy, the following words, terms and phrases, and their derivations, shall be the meaning ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning,

A. AGENT means an official contracted or subcontracted person who is authorized to act on behalf of the City of Dunwoody and represent their interests.

B. CITY DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY means the Director of Sustainability or other employee or agent as designated in writing by the City Manager.

C. EMPLOYEE means an individual drawing a salary or wage from the City whether on a full-time, part-time, or contractual third-party basis. The term shall encompass all members of the Governing Authority without regard to whether or not such individual is compensated.

D. GOVERNING AUTHORITY means the City entity responsible for the contract.

E. OFFICIAL means any elected or appointed person who holds office or serves in a position of public capacity.



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G. VEHICLE means mechanical means of conveyance, a carriage or transport. This includes both automobiles and other rolling stock powered by gasoline or other fuel alternatives.

III. Scope

The scope of this No Idling Policy covers all City owned vehicles or other rolling stock as well all vehicles operated by employees of the City while doing the work of the City, except as outlined in Article III.

Appropriate use of City vehicles includes the following:

- A. City vehicles will not be parked with the engine operating for more than 30 seconds unless it is essential to the performance of work.
- B. Initial “warm up” idling should be minimized. If a vehicle’s windows are clear, driving should be started after no more than 30 seconds of idling.
- C. Initial “warm up” for diesel vehicles should be limited to 3-5 minutes, or as otherwise recommended by vehicle’s manufacturer.
- D. If a vehicle is going to be stopped for more than 30 seconds, except as required while operating the vehicle in routine traffic, the engine should be turned off as idling for more than ten seconds uses more fuel than it takes to restart the vehicle.

IV. Exceptions

Due to the diverse nature of the City’s vehicle fleet, exceptions are needed to this No Idling Policy. Subsequently the provisions of the policy do not apply to:

- A. Emergency vehicles, such as public safety vehicles, while engaged in operational activities;
- B. Vehicles that are required to idle in order to power ancillary equipment mounted on the vehicle without risking damage to the battery;
- C. Public safety vehicles performing emergency operations, but only when the vehicle must be operating for the warning devices or emergency systems to function;
- D. Vehicles equipped with temperature sensitive equipment;
- E. Public safety vehicles transporting prisoners, victims, or witnesses, or when performing traffic control;
- F. The primary propulsion engine of a motor vehicle providing a power source necessary for mechanical operation of equipment required for job performance;
- G. A motor vehicle forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions over which the operator has no control;



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- H. The primary engine of a motor vehicle being operated for maintenance or diagnostic purposes;
- I. 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.

V. **Responsibility**

A. Director of Sustainability

The City Council may appoint the City Manager, or said agent appointed by the City Manager, to serve as the Director of Sustainability for the City, or the Council may contract with an independent third party to serve as the Director of Sustainability (per City Charter, Section 3.02).

DUTIES: The Director of Sustainability shall have the following duties and powers in regards to the No Idling Policy:

1. Work with all department heads to make certain that employees are aware and educated about this No Idling Policy.
2. Work with all department heads to make certain that this practice, not idling vehicles, is monitored.