

Approved as to Form
Salt Lake City Attorneys Office
By: _____
Date: _____

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
(Amended)**

EFFECTIVE DATE: _____, 2008

SUBJECT: **PROHIBITION OF IDLING OF ALL SALT LAKE CITY
VEHICLES**

DISTRIBUTION: **ALL DEPARTMENTS**

**AUTHORITY
SIGNATURE:**

RALPH BECKER, MAYOR

DATE

Background:

On August 7, 2007, Mayor Ross C. Anderson signed an Executive Order prohibiting the idling of Salt Lake City (the “City”) vehicles for more than five (5) consecutive minutes, except in certain circumstances. Afterwards, the City began collaborating with the various governmental entities and interests groups, such as the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Salt Lake County, Utah Transit Authority, Utah Clean Cities, and Utah Moms for Clean Air, that all stress a lower idling time limit. Accordingly, and for the reasons further explained below, the August 7, 2007 Executive Order is amended to require that the idling limit be lowered to ten (10) seconds.

Why a Change is Needed:

Several reasons support the City’s decision to lower its idling time limit to ten (10) seconds. For instance, the Canada Department of Natural Resources reports that the average vehicle will use more gas and cause more emissions if they idle for more than 10 seconds than if they are turned off and restarted. In addition, the Canada Department of Natural Resources also reports that when a vehicle’s engine is left idling for excessive

periods, many negative effects occur, including engine damage, waste of resources, and environmental pollution.

Engine Damage:

Research shows that the wear rates of an idling engine are double that of running an engine under load. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), an hour of idling is equal to 80 miles of driving.

Waste of Resources:

The EPA reports that fuel costs alone from engine idling are enormous, as car engines will use over a gallon of fuel for each hour they idle. In addition, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, more than 3 billion gallons of fuel are used every year fueling idling engines.

Environmental Pollution:

The unnecessary idling of cars and buses contributes to the amount of emissions piped into the air every day. The Utah Department of Air Quality has observed that this affects the quality of air we all breathe both at the point of idling (often in front of schools and homes), and regionally due to pollutants released into the atmosphere.

By lowering the City's idling limit on City vehicles, the City limits the negative environmental effects that idling creates and preserves the longevity of City property. Additionally, the City maintains consistency with other governmental agencies and private sector interests groups that already subscribe to a 10 second idling limitation.

The Amendment:

Preface

Air pollution is a major public health concern in Salt Lake City and motor vehicles are significant sources of air pollution. In Utah over 50% of air pollution is a result of mobile sources.

Air pollution can cause or aggravate lung illnesses such as acute respiratory infections, asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and lung cancer. In addition to health impacts, air pollution imposes significant economic costs and negative impacts on our quality of life.

Exhaust from vehicles is a substantial source of ozone precursors in the Salt Lake Valley. Vehicle exhaust also is a source of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, toxic air contaminants, and greenhouse gases (the leading cause of climate change).

Salt Lake City can play an important role in improving air quality by limiting the amount of time engines are allowed to idle and thereby lead the effort to improve air quality by adopting a prohibition on unnecessary vehicle idling by all City employees. The purpose of this Executive Order is to protect the public health and improve our environment by reducing emissions while conserving fuel.

Therefore I enact this Executive Order:

1. Definitions

1.1 “Driver” means any employee of Salt Lake City Corporation who drives, operates, or is in actual physical control of a vehicle.

1.2 “Idle” means the operation of a vehicle engine while the vehicle is stationary or not in the act of performing work or its normal function.

1.3 “Vehicle” means any self propelled vehicle that is required to be registered and have a license plate by the department of motor vehicles.

2. General

2.1 This Executive Order applies to the Mayor and to City employees in City departments under the direction of the Mayor.

2.2 No driver, while (a) operating a City owned vehicle or (b) operating a privately owned vehicle while on City business, shall cause or permit a vehicle’s engine to idle for more than ten (10) consecutive seconds, except for the following kinds of idling:

A. Idling while stopped:

1. for an official traffic control device;
2. for an official traffic control signal;
3. at the direction of a police officer;
4. at the direction of an air traffic controller;
5. idling as needed by City employees to operate defrosters, heaters, air conditioners, or other equipment to prevent a safety or health emergency;
6. idling as needed for a fire apparatus that must be kept running when outside to keep the pumps running and circulating water.

B. Idling as needed to ascertain that a vehicle is in safe operating condition and equipped as required by all provisions of law, and that all equipment is in good working order, either as part of the daily vehicle inspection, or as otherwise needed;

C. Idling as needed for testing, servicing, repairing, or diagnostic purposes;

- D. Idling for the period recommended by the manufacturer to cool down a turbo-charged heavy-duty vehicle before turning the engine off;
- E. Idling as needed to operate auxiliary equipment for which the vehicle was designed, other than transporting goods, such as: operating a transportation refrigeration unit (TRU), lift, crane, pump, drill, hoist, ready mixed concrete mixer, or other auxiliary equipment, except a heater or air conditioner;
- F. Idling as needed to operate a lift or other piece of equipment designed to ensure safe loading and unloading of goods or people;
- G. Idling to recharge a battery or other energy storage unit of a hybrid electric vehicle / equipment;
- H. Idling as needed for vehicles that house K-9 or other service animals;
- I. Idling by on-duty police officers as necessary for the performance of their official duties.