

# CITY OF WHITING VEHICLE IDLING POLICY

Effective: March 1, 2010

## **FINDINGS AND PURPOSE**

This policy is intended to address three issues facing the City of Whiting - air pollution, vehicle fuel expense and vehicle service life. Air pollution is a major public health concern. Exhaust from vehicles is a substantial source of ozone precursors and particulate matter. Although new engines are now cleaner due to improved emission control technologies, the slow turn over in their inventory and the number of miles and hours these vehicles idle each year reduces air quality. The City of Whiting's awareness to become "more green" encourages continued reduction in air pollutants.

The cost of fuel has increased dramatically, consuming a significantly higher share of the City's financial resources.

Unnecessary idling reduces the life-span of a vehicle. Extending a vehicle's useful life will ensure the City's financial resources are being allocated efficiently.

City of Whiting employees can play an important role in improving air quality, reducing fuel expense and extending a vehicles life-span by limiting the amount of time engines are allowed to idle.

## **POLICY**

A driver of a City of Whiting vehicle must:

1. Turn off the engine upon stopping at a destination; and
2. Not allow an engine to idle at any location for more than five minutes.

An operator of an off-road piece of equipment must:

1. Turn off the engine when the driver is on breaks and lunch; and
2. Not allow an engine to idle at any location for more than five minutes.

Idling is not permitted solely for the comfort of the driver or passengers (see Exception 4 below.)

### **Additional Police Guidelines – Idling is not permitted:**

1. When the vehicle is parked in and around the police station.
2. When the vehicle is parked at a location during a call for service.

3. When the vehicle is parked at a place of business during a break.
4. When the vehicle is parked during the running of radar at a set location.

**EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY PERMIT IDLING WHEN:**

1. Necessary for an official traffic control device or signal or traffic conditions such as stopped in a line of traffic, at a railroad crossing, at a construction zone, or at the direction of a local police officer;
2. Necessary for accomplishing work for which the vehicle was designed such as operating a lift, hoist, crane, drill, pump, law enforcement, emergency medical or communication equipment;
3. Required for vehicle inspection, maintenance, testing, or repair;
4. To bring a vehicle up to proper operating temperature as defined in the Manufacturer's (OEM) Owner Manual.
5. Passengers' health, safety or welfare would be compromised if the vehicle were not maintained at an adequate temperature.
6. When the outdoor temperature is less than 32 degrees or greater than 80 degrees.
7. Hybrid vehicle with low idle requirements.

**VIOLATION**

Any employee who violates this policy may be subject to the appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension, demotion or termination from City of Whiting employment.

I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand this policy.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date