

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

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Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(9) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 12/09/2020

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 12/28/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 19-0604

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary:



COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

*David Balen,
President*

City Council File Number 19-0604

*Jason Hector,
Treasurer*

Title: Ban on Car Idling

Asaad Alnajjar

Lori Choi

Brandii Grace

Mark Haynes

Mihran Kalaydjian

Gabriel Khanlian,

David Lasher

Becky Leveque

Hassan Memarian

Summary: The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, representing more than 25,500 resident stakeholders, supports a motion to create an educational campaign to teach people the serious downsides of needless car idling.

It is important to address the issues of poor air quality in Los Angeles due to the increasing climate emergency. Car idling puts 3 million tons of CO₂ into California's atmosphere annually. At least one-third of greenhouse gas emissions in Los Angeles is from the transportation sector. The LA region has received an on-going annual failing grade from the American Lung Association's "State of the Air" report. Los Angeles is considered the most ozone-polluted metropolitan area in the United States. Air pollution poses significant dangers to public health, including risk of premature death, reproductive and developmental harm, cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, and asthma. Over 250,000 children and 1.1 million adults in the Los Angeles metropolitan area reportedly has asthma, with low-income communities of color particularly at risk. It is a public health issue. Sensitive locations all over Los Angeles, such as schools, hospitals and senior centers, as well as emissions choked areas such as garages, parking lots and travel hubs are most at risk. Also ride-hailing and delivery services leave parked vehicles engines running which exacerbate pollution concerns. Reducing needless vehicle idling will protect all citizens and prevent unwanted serious health issues all over the city.

Idling is a Zero MPG Activity which creates 3 Million Tons of unnecessary CO₂ and other pollutants in CA annually - it is counterproductive to be concerned about car MPG standards and completely ignore this 0 MPG behavior. Turning off the engine when not driving should be as second nature as turning off the light when leaving a room.

For these reasons, the PRNC is strongly in support of an educational campaign to help motorists become more aware of the environmental and health issues connected to car idling and encourage motorists to refrain from idling their vehicles unnecessarily.

The PRNC also recognizes that idling can be necessary in a variety of circumstances including combating extreme temperatures, maintaining the health and the well-being of children or pets, running safety or emergency vehicles, the needs of commercial vehicles to run their engines while parked, the needs of those with disabilities, and for unhoused families who rely on running their cars to access necessary heat, air conditioning, and electricity.

While the PRNC recognizes that this motion has attempted to mitigate many potential negative impacts, our community is still concerned about several aspects of this motion including it's potential to disadvantage low-income and unhoused families, that it could be enforced in a way that disadvantages people with disabilities, and how enforcement will be handled in general - particularly in disadvantaged communities.

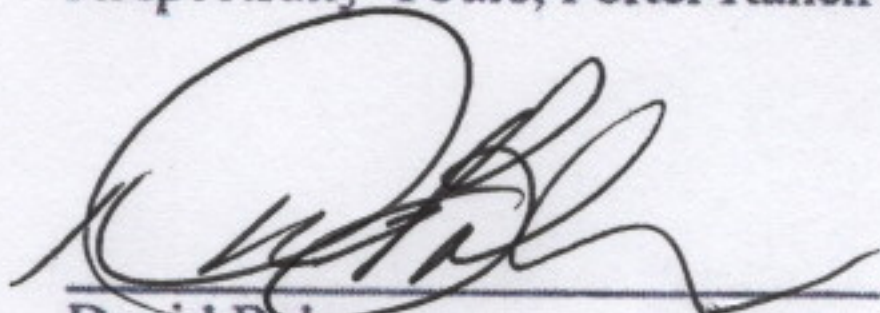
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

While it is true that similar bans have been enacted in other cities and states, none of those locations are similar to Los Angeles in both its sprawling geographic layout and its exploding poverty and homelessness crisis. Therefore, we believe such an ordinance could have a unique impact on our city.

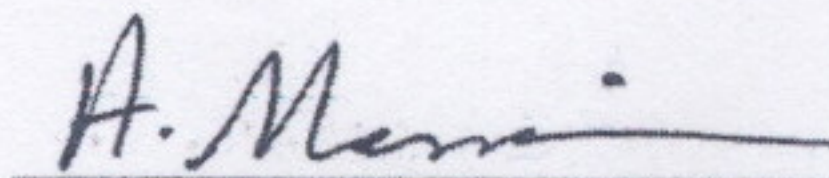
Additionally, Los Angeles still faces the deadly serious problem of persuading reluctant drivers to pull over before texting or using a cell phone. In fact, 1 out of every 4 car accidents in the U.S. is caused by texting while driving. Convincing drivers to pull over to text could become significantly harder if drivers are also required to turn off their idling vehicles to do so.

The PRNC strongly believes in the cause of raising awareness of the need to turn off parked cars as is reasonable, but does not support an ordinance outright banning idling. The PRNC therefore calls on LA City Council to support if amended Councilmen Koretz's motion if amended to only fund a serious educational campaign without implementing an ordinance that would ban idling.

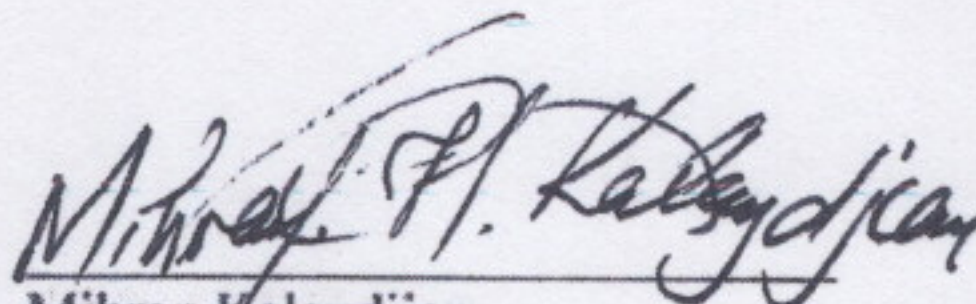
Respectfully Yours, Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council



David Balen
PRNC President



Hassan Memarian, Ph.D.
Chair, Sustainability Committee,
1st PRNC Liaison to the NCSA



Mihran Kalaydjian
Member, Sustainability Committee
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cc: Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)