

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Olivares
Date Submitted: 04/21/2020 07:19 PM
Council File No: 19-0604
Comments for Public Posting: Comments submitted as attachment, on behalf of the American Lung Association. Michael Olivares



April 3, 2020

Councilmember Paul Koretz,
Los Angeles City Council, District 5
200 N. Spring Street, Room 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Anti-idling Ordinance and Education

Dear Councilmember Koretz,

On behalf of the American Lung Association, I am writing in support of your efforts to reduce unnecessary vehicle idling and associated emissions of harmful air and climate pollutants in Los Angeles.

Californians face the most difficult air pollution challenges in the United States. The American Lung Association's *State of the Air* 2019 report ranked Los Angeles as the most ozone-polluted metropolitan area in the United States, as it has 19 times over the 20 year-history of the report. Children, senior citizens, people with asthma, and low income community residents are most at risk.

Climate change represents a critical public health threat, adding to the difficulty of bringing clean air to all residents and threatens to stall decades of strong clean air progress. As temperatures rise, the conditions for unhealthy ozone pollution increase. Similarly, Californians know all too well the risks of widespread particle pollution increases associated with catastrophic wildfires that have become more frequent and intense in recent years. In fact, our 2019 *State of the Air* report highlighted both of these challenges in terms of increases in both ozone and particle pollution across broad areas of Southern California and beyond.

Our air pollution and climate challenges are directly tied to transportation emissions. The transportation sector is the leading contributor to both ozone pollution and climate change-forcing greenhouse gas emissions. We believe that implementing this idling policy will reduce unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions, address climate change, and improve the quality of air and health for millions of children, elderly, and asthma sufferers.

The proposed education component of the Motion is also an excellent opportunity to increase awareness about emissions dangers and sustainable transportation practices across all sectors.

The American Lung Association thanks the City of Los Angeles for taking the initiative to reduce greenhouse emissions and improve air quality and protect public health. We look forward to working with you on this policy.

Sincerely,

Michael Olivares
Manager | Advocacy