TOWNSHIP OF VERONA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION No. 2023-171

A motion was made by Deputy McEvoy; seconded by Councilman Roman that the following resolution be adopted:

IN SUPPORT OF THE ADOPTION OF A STRONG ANTI-IDLING POLICY IN NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, fine particulates; and

WHEREAS, numerous scientific studies have found links between exposure to fine particles and health effects including premature death, and increased incidents of asthma, allergies, and other breathing disorders; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has classified diesel exhaust as likely to be carcinogenic to humans; and

WHEREAS, vehicle idling occurs in locations (e.g. school grounds, parking lots, distribution centers, strip malls, construction sites, business centers, etc.) where New Jerseyans can be exposed to concentrated sources of air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, asthma is a significant public health concern in New Jersey, especially among children (up to 25% of New Jersey's school-age children are asthmatic) and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of fine-particle emissions from diesel engines could also prevent 16,000 new asthma cases annually and save $770 million to $10 billion in health care and related costs in the State; and

WHEREAS, for every gallon of gasoline used, the average car produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO2), the largest contributor to greenhouse climate change, with one-third of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuel are nonrenewable fuels and should be used wisely and not wasted; and

WHEREAS, idling is not generally beneficial to a vehicle's engine because it wears engine parts; and

WHEREAS, idling more than 10 seconds uses more fuel and emits more pollutants than turning an engine off and on again; and

WHEREAS, current state law prohibits the idling of vehicles for more than three minutes and studies have shown that an anti-idling policy will save fuel, prolong engine life, and improve air quality.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of Verona, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey supports the adoption of a strong anti-idling policy by government agencies, schools, businesses, and other organizations by:

1. Make enforcing existing violations and penalties under New Jersey's existing no-idling law a priority pursuant to C. 39:3- 70.2 and C. 26:2C-1;

2. Encouraging any gasoline or diesel-powered motor vehicle to turn off their engines immediately at schools and off-site school related events to minimize exposure of children to vehicle emissions;

3. Maintaining municipal vehicles to eliminate any visible exhaust and complying with the annual inspection requirement for those vehicles;

4. Promote the widespread use of emission controls in construction contracts (for example, see the "Diesel Emission Controls in Construction Projects: Model Contract Specification" developed by the Northeast Diesel Collaborative); and

5. Supporting broad education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling.

6. Forming safe routes to enable more walkable streets within the Township of Verona.

ROLL CALL:
AYES: Holland, McGrath, Roman, McEvoy, Tamburro
NAYS:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VERONA AT THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 16, 2023.

Jennifer Kiernan

JENNIFER KIERNAN
MUNICIPAL CLERK