



Mayor Annise D. Parker

# Idle-free Houston

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# What is idling?

- **Vehicle engine is running while parked**

# Why is idling an issue?

- Nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter (PM) are emitted from vehicle engine exhaust; NO<sub>x</sub> and VOCs reacts to form ground-level ozone (smog) in the presence of sun light
- Ozone has been Houston's top air quality concern for years with fine particulates following closely behind

# Why is idling an issue?

- Diesel engines emit hazardous air pollutants which have been linked to serious illnesses, including Asthma, Heart Disease, Chronic Bronchitis, and Cancer
- Children, elderly, and those with asthma and other chronic health problems are especially vulnerable to the health dangers of exhaust

# Where is idling an issue?

**Area museums such as Houston Museum of Natural Science, Children's, Health Science, Fine Arts, Holocaust, Weather Research, as well as the Houston Zoo, Hermann Park and the Texas Medical Center**

**Idling from private, charter and public school buses and commercial trucks were reported to 3-1-1 from concerned citizens in:**

- Magnolia Park
- El Dorado / Oates
- North Shore
- Acres Homes

# What is the solution?

- A robust Idle-Free Houston movement that brings attention to most affected areas in Houston
- Proposed ordinance restricting the amount of idling time allowed for large vehicles
- Deterrent tools such as signs prohibiting idling

# Which vehicles are impacted?

- 18 wheelers
- Busses
- Vehicles over 14,000 pounds

# Enforcement

- Complaints will be checked by Environmental Investigators from HDHHS
- Awareness is expected to gain compliance with ordinance
- Municipal Court citations for uncorrected violations issued to driver



