



Annise Parker, Mayor
Council Member Brenda Stardig -District A
Council Member Jerry Davis - District B
Council Member Ellen Cohen – District C
Council Member Dwight Boykins – District D
Council Member Dave Martin -District E
Council Member Richard Nguyen - District F
Council Member Oliver Pennington – District G
Council Member Ed Gonzalez – District H
Council Member Robert Gallegos – District I
Council Member Mike Laster – District J
Council Member Stephen Costello – At Large 1
Council Member David Robinson – At Large 2
Council Member Michael Kubosh – At Large 3
Council Member CO Bradford – At Large 4
Council Member Jack Christie – At Large 5
City of Houston 900 Bagby Street Houston, Texas 77002

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2015

Dear Mayor Parker and Council Members,

On behalf of each of the organizations listed on the attached page, I would like to thank you for considering adopting a city wide ordinance that limits heavy-duty diesel vehicle idling. As you know, diesel exhaust is a toxic mix of gasses and particles that can cause health effects ranging from headaches and nausea to respiratory disease and lung cancer.

For many Houstonians, the health risks associated with diesel idling are exponentially greater. In Museum Park Super Neighborhood we see this unintended impact almost daily. Around noon on any day of the week, up to thousands of school children are visiting our beloved Hermann Park, the Zoo, and the many institutions that are favorite Houston field trip destinations. The vast majority arrive by school bus, powered by heavy diesel engines. The senior citizen groups are the second most numerous arrivals. These two groups are the most sensitive to diesel exhaust, placing them at greater risk.

This issue isn't unique to the Medical Center, Museum Park, or all of the surrounding neighborhoods. I discovered that several other Super Neighborhoods experience bus and truck idling issues, often at neighborhood parks or in neighborhoods.

Trucks and buses are necessary to keep our City moving, however their idling is not. Limited idling improves air quality and significantly decreases fuel use, saving money for better uses. Thirty-two cities and nine counties in Texas limit idling of heavy – duty vehicles. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has had regulations for over ten years affirming the rights of local governments to enact such ordinances.

I've spoken with organizations from across the City, listed on the attached page, and they stand with us in supporting an idling ordinance and hope you will as well.

Thank you for your commitment to a great Houston, and for your support.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Reilly

Kathleen O'Reilly

President Museum Park Super Neighborhood

<http://www.museumparksn.org/>

713.303.8938

Idling Ordinance Support:

Air Alliance Houston
American Lung Association
Bike Houston
Citizens' Climate Lobby
Citizens Environmental Coalition
Coalition of Community Organizations
Environmental Defense Fund Texas
Environmental Integrity Project
Hermann Park Conservancy
Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC)
Houston Southeast Management District
Houston Tomorrow
League of Women Voters (LWV)
Multiple ISDs (including Aldine, Alief, CyFair, Houston, Katy, Spring Branch)
Museum District Association (19 museums and Houston Zoo)
Public Citizen
South Main Alliance
Super Neighborhood Alliance (SNA)
 SNs who voted affirmatively at Sept 2015 SNA vote:

- 10 - Spring Branch West
- 12 - Central Northwest
- 15 - Greater Heights
- 17 - Eldridge
- 22 - Washington Ave. Coalition-Memorial Park
- 24 - Neartown Montrose
- 37 - Westbury
- 48 - Trinity, Houston Gardens
- 55 - Greater Fifth Ward
- 66 - Museum Park

Sierra Club
Southwest Houston 2000, Inc.
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS)
Texas League of Conservation Voters
Texas Organizing Project (TOP)