

ANTI-IDLING ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), exposure to the exhaust of motor vehicles, even at low levels is a serious health hazard; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the City of Methuen to continually improve the local air quality and health of its residents; and

WHEREAS, unnecessary idling of motor vehicles has serious impacts on the public health and hence it is important to minimize the same wherever possible;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Methuen, the pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 90, Section 16A of the General Laws and 310 CMR 7.11 and 7.52; as follows:

By adding to the Municipal Code of the City of Methuen Massachusetts and inserting therein the following:

Chapter 9, Article VI (Environmental Protection), Section 9-67

“No person shall cause, suffer, allow or permit the unnecessary operation of an engine of a motor vehicle while said vehicle is stopped for a foreseeable period of time in excess of five (5) minutes. This section shall not apply to (a) vehicles being serviced, provided that operation of the engine is essential to the proper repair thereof, or (b) vehicles engaged in the delivery or acceptance of goods, wares, or merchandise for which engine assisted power is necessary and substitute alternative means cannot be made available, or (c) vehicles engaged in an operation for which the engine power is necessary for an associate power need other than movement and substitute alternate power means cannot be made available provided that such operation does not cause or contribute to a condition of air pollution. Whoever violates any provision of this ordinance shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for the first offense, nor more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars for each succeeding offense.

The police department, fire department, board of health officials, or building inspector or his designee acting within his jurisdictional area is hereby authorized to strictly enforce the provisions of this section in those areas determined by the City Council throughout the City of Methuen and so designated by official signage.”