



ATTN: Matthew Green
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Email: iec@toronto.ca

cc. Cllrs McKelvie, Lin, Colle, Morley, Pasternak, Perruzza, and Saxe

February 25, 2025

RE: Infrastructure & Environment Committee Item IE19.2 Anti Idling By-Law

I'm writing today on behalf of Walk Toronto in regard to Item IE19.2 - Anti Idling By Law. Walk Toronto is a grassroots, volunteer pedestrian advocacy group that works with various levels of government, community groups and citizens to improve walking conditions and safety in Toronto. As such, we would like to offer our support of anti idling education and enforcement.

An idling car is a polluting car. Sending out dangerous toxins like carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide that significantly contribute to climate change and have serious health impacts. In 2018 alone, air pollution was responsible for the premature death of 6700 Ontarians. When air toxins pass through the lungs into the bloodstream they can cause serious disease such as asthma, lung cancer, blood clots, heart disease, stroke, premature birth and low birth rates¹.

Unfortunately, children, with a respiratory rate double that of an adult, are the most susceptible to the health impacts of combustion engine emissions. Additionally, children; those using mobility aids, such as wheel chairs; and, pets are also at greater risk of inhaling emissions due to their closer proximity to a vehicles exhaust.

To lessen the impacts of an idling vehicle on air quality and our health, Toronto needs to increase awareness amongst drivers through an aggressive and meaningful public education campaign; and, have greater enforcement of the by-law.

Walk Toronto fully supports the City of Toronto in decreasing the level of vehicular emissions through an enhanced anti idling by-law.

Respectfully yours,

Susan Bakshi
For WalkToronto
info@walktoronto.ca

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/air-quality/outdoor-pollution-health.html>