

RESOLUTION 2024-089

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
CHATHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AFFIRMING THE
ADOPTION OF IDLE FREE ZONES**

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2007 the Township Committee adopted Resolution 2007-195 supporting the adoption of "Idle Free Zones, by government agencies, schools, businesses and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has reaffirmed that support through the adoption of Resolutions 2012-114 and 2021-066; and

WHEREAS, emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles contribute significantly to air pollution, including greenhouse gases, ozone formation, fine particulates, and a multitude of potentially harmful pollutants that can trigger asthma attacks and other ailments; 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, for every gallon of gasoline used, the average car produces about 20 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the largest greenhouse gas contributor to climate change, with one-third of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Argonne National Laboratory estimates that about 20 million barrels of diesel fuel are consumed each year by idling long-haul trucks (estimated truck emissions total about 10 million tons of CO₂, 50,000 tons nitrogen oxides, and 2000 tons of particulates); and

WHEREAS, we can avoid producing unnecessary greenhouse emissions and exposure to air toxins by reducing or eliminating wasteful vehicle idling; 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 a warm engine off and on again; and

WHEREAS, idling for 10 minutes uses as much fuel as it takes to travel 5 miles; and

WHEREAS, vehicle idling occurs in locations (e.g. school grounds, parking lots, drive-through windows, business centers, etc.) where New Jerseyans can be exposed to air pollutant emissions; and

WHEREAS, **moving** beyond New Jersey's no-idling code of 3 minutes would significantly improve public health, air quality, reduce costs and greenhouse emissions;

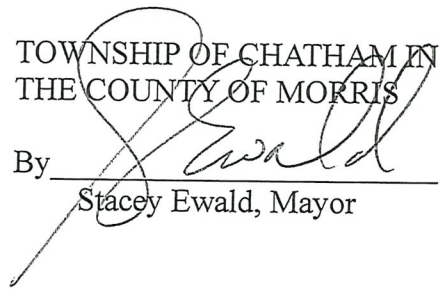
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Chatham reaffirms its continuing support of Resolution 2007-195 adopted on October 11, 2007, which resolution supports the adoption of "Idle Free Zones, by government agencies, schools, businesses and other organizations.

Adopted: March 26, 2024

Attest:


Gregory J. LaConte, Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF CHATHAM IN
THE COUNTY OF MORRIS

By 
Stacey Ewald, Mayor