

The American Lung Association’s State of the Air 2024 report ranked Los Angeles as the sixth most polluted metropolitan area in the United States when measured by annual particle pollution. Idling emissions from motor vehicles, especially those powered by gasoline or diesel, are a known source of these harmful pollutants. The impacts of particle pollution are well-documented and include increased rates of infant mortality, higher hospital admissions for heart disease, and more severe asthma attacks that require hospitalization. These risks are disproportionately borne by low-income communities and people of color. The community of Wilmington—located adjacent to the Port of Los Angeles— experiences a particularly high concentration of these harmful pollutants.

To address these public health risks and environmental inequities, the City of New York enacted the Citizen Idling Complaint Program in 2017. This program enables citizens who file complaints about idling commercial vehicles to collect 25% of subsequent fines. This innovative approach reduces air pollution, fosters public engagement, and helps combat the disproportionate impacts of pollution on vulnerable communities.

More innovative enforcement mechanisms, such as those in the City of New York, are needed to achieve cleaner air and healthier communities in Los Angeles. Implementing a Citizen Idling Complaint Program in Los Angeles could help address the City’s persistent air quality challenges while empowering residents to take an active role in reducing pollution. Given the region’s high levels of particle pollution and the significant health and environmental hazards faced by communities like Wilmington, such a program could make large positive impacts in the health outcomes of City residents.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Department of Transportation, with the assistance of the Port of Los Angeles, Wilmington Neighborhood Council, and other important stakeholders, to report on the feasibility of enacting a program in Los Angeles, whether geographically focused or to be implemented citywide, similar to New York City’s 2017 Citizens Air Complaint Program to address local air quality challenges.

PRESENTED BY:



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