



SUN POST-HERALD

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2010

FOR COMMUNITY NEWS ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

CLEVELAND.COM/SUN

Limit put on idling

Drivers must not go over 5 minutes

By Kate Spirgen

kspirgen@sunnews.com

LAKEWOOD — Drivers will no longer be able to leave their motors running in the city. City Council passed legislation on Tuesday to ban vehicle idling more than 5 minutes in an effort to save fuel, improve air quality and reduce noise pollution.

The new regulations apply to all vehicles, with provisions for ambulances, armored cars, active construction equipment and other special circumstances. For example, the time limit is extended to 10 minutes for drivers making a pick-up or delivery.

"I really believe this is a good tool in being able to address issues of noise, but more importantly, it's really getting at the crux of reducing

See **LIMIT, A5**

LIMIT

From A1

emissions," said Councilwoman at large Nickie Antonio, who introduced the legislation. "I hope it changes the behavior of people and raises consciousness of when their vehicle is idling."

Antonio said that since working on the ordinance, she has become more aware of her own idling and has made a conscious effort to turn her car off.

"More than anything else, this is about raising awareness," she said. "It's really getting us all to think about how our behavior shapes our contributions that are collectively working to save the environment."

Ward 4 Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan, who introduced similar legislation two years earlier and strongly supported the new ordinance, agreed.

"I think it's overdue, but this fits in with Lakewood's personality to be cleaner, less wasteful and ahead of the

curve," she said. "Idling is a waste. Period."

Drivers who idle for more than 5 minutes in a one hour period, or more than 10 minutes in extreme weather, face a minor misdemeanor charge.

"It will be at the discretion of the officer and what cir-

cumstances present themselves," said Police Chief Tim Malley of how the new piece of the traffic code will be enforced.

Contact Spirgen at
(216) 986-6065.

Follow her at
cleveland.com/sunpostherald