

# Dallas Marshal's Office Motor Vehicle Idling Enforcement



# City of Dallas Ordinance 5A-15

- The ordinance passed on May 23, 2007.
- Marshal provided education in lieu of citations until April 2008.
- The ordinance specifies that motor vehicles weighing over 14,000 pounds are prohibited from idling for over five minutes in the City of Dallas.
- The purpose of the anti-idling ordinance is to help improve air quality in the City of Dallas and throughout North Texas.
- City of Dallas Marshals will issue citations to drivers of idling vehicles. The penalty for idling is a fine not to exceed \$500, and is also considered a class C misdemeanor.

# Environmental Crimes Unit

- Environmental Crimes Unit Functions
- Environmental Offenses
  - Investigate Illegal Dumping/ Burning/ Water Pollution/ Health and Safety Code/ Clean Air Act/ City Ordinance/ Transportation Code violations; complaints from citizens, City Council, other departments, 311 (CRMS), 911.
  - File criminal cases with the appropriate authority, i.e. District Attorney's Office, City Prosecutor.
  - Patrol the City of Dallas monitoring known dump sites and potential dump sites for illegal activity
  - Execute Search and Arrest Warrants as needed to enforce Environmental Offenses.
- Idling
  - Investigate Idling complaints from citizens, City Council, other departments, 311 (CRMS), 911.
  - Patrol the City of Dallas monitoring Idling Vehicles
- Environmental Citations
  - Patrol the City of Dallas monitoring for environmental offenses, and enforcing violations observed. i.e. Unsecured Loads, Littering, Illegal Dumping, Outdoor Burning, Shopping Cart Ord., Idling, Emissions.
- Levee Patrol
  - Patrol the City of Dallas' Levee System and Trinity River. Observe and enforce City Ordinances and State Laws regarding Vehicles in the flood zones, Dumping, and other environmental violations.
- Community Events
  - Attend Community Events such as; Crime Watch, Neighborhood Association Meetings, Environmental Awareness Events, Chief on The Beat, and National Night Out to name a few.
  - Hand out literature, giveaways such as stickers, cups, and pens.
  - Educate the public's awareness about Environmental Offenses, Reporting, and the Role of the Marshal's Office in the City of Dallas.
  - Address concerns raised by citizens.

# Exceptions

- Idling is permitted only under the following circumstances:
- The vehicle weighs 14,000 pounds or less;
- The vehicle must remain motionless because of traffic conditions;
- The vehicle is being used by the U.S. military, including the National Guard and Reserve forces, or as an emergency or law enforcement motor vehicle;
- The vehicle is an armored vehicle;
- The vehicle is providing a power source necessary for mechanical operation, not including propulsion, and/or passenger compartment heating or air conditioning;
- The vehicle is idling for maintenance or diagnostic purposes;
- The vehicle is idling to defrost a windshield;
- The vehicle is idling to supply heat or air conditioning necessary for passenger comfort/safety in those vehicles intended for commercial passenger transportation or school buses, in which case idling up to a maximum of 30 minutes is allowed;
- The vehicle is idling to provide air conditioning or heating necessary for
- employee health or safety while the employee is using the vehicle to perform an essential job function related to roadway construction or maintenance;
- The vehicle is being used as airport ground support equipment; or
- The vehicle is idling to provide heat or air conditioning for the driver while using the sleeper berth during a federally mandated rest period.



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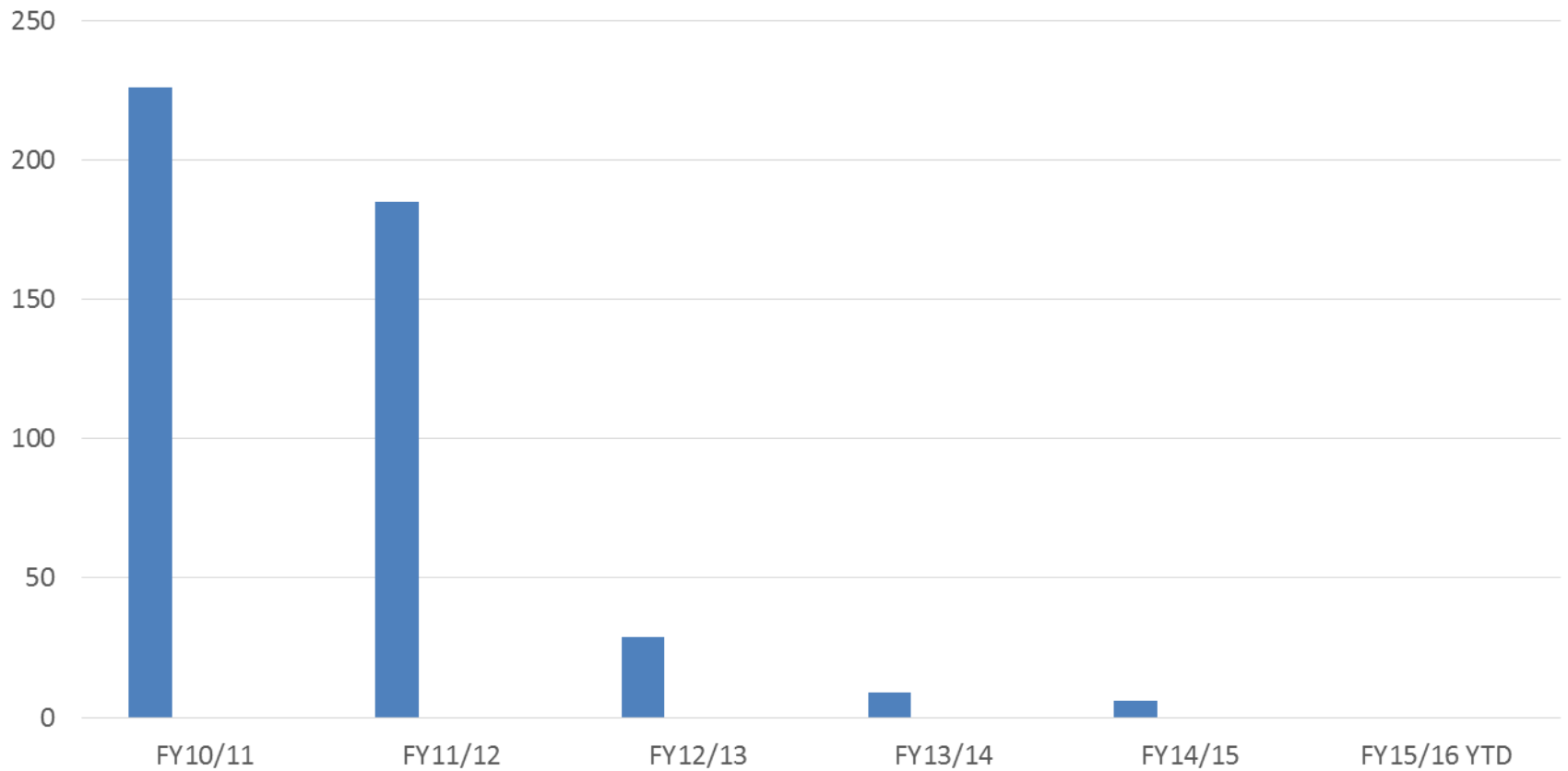
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# Ordinance Change

In November 2012, the City Ordinance changed, excluding vehicles “equipped with 2008 or subsequent model year heavy duty diesel engine or liquefied or compressed natural gas engine that has been certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency or another state environmental agency to emit no more than 30 grams of nitrogen oxides per hour when idling”. Many vehicles which would have been cited previous to this change are now excluded by this defense.

# Activity by FY

Citations by FY



# Questions

