



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2010

Contact: Lisa Harrison Smith
c. 801-913-9748

Idle-Free Awareness Month Launched by Mayors Becker and Corroon

Utah's Capital City Supports September as Idle-Free Month with Proposed Ordinance

SALT LAKE CITY – Two years after launching the Idle-Free Utah Campaign in 2008, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker and Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon will announce September as Idle-Free Awareness Month on Thursday, September 9 at 10:30 a.m. with the 6th grade schoolchildren of Morningside Elementary at 4170 South 3000 East. The widely popular “Turn your key, be idle free” message from the Idle-Free Campaign has prompted the dedication of September to air quality by Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, the Utah Department of Air Quality, the Utah State Office of Education, and Utah Clean Cities Coalition.

Under Mayor Becker’s directive to become the most sustainable city in the U.S., Salt Lake City is furthering its commitment to improving air quality through a proposed anti-idling ordinance. The code aims to supplement the goals of the idle-free campaign to protect public health and improve air quality by reducing unnecessary vehicle emissions. Under the proposed ordinance, vehicles found idling for over two minutes would be subject to an initial warning and fines upon the second and third offense.

“Anti-idling city codes are in place across America, yet here in Salt Lake City we have the worst air quality in the country. Curtailing idling is no longer just an idea for us to consider but rather a commitment we can make to be better stewards of our natural resources,” said Mayor Becker. “I believe this proposed ordinance shows the community’s collective willingness to provide greater protections to our health and the environment. I am asking residents to provide feedback to improve the ordinance as it is currently proposed and in turn support it as law.”

The proposed ordinance allows exemptions for situations where defrosters, heaters, air conditioners or other equipment are needed for safety or health. Auxiliary equipment such as transportation refrigeration units, lifts, and cranes or vehicles with rechargeable batteries or other energy storage units of a hybrid vehicle would also be exempt. Police, K-9, and other specific fleet vehicles also have specific exemptions to allow on-duty performance of official duties. Salt Lake City’s Civil Enforcement Division would be the responsible party to enforce the ordinance.

“In Utah we suffer from annual winter inversions that trap cold air in our valleys,” says Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon. “Cutting down on idling is an easy way to reduce vehicle emissions that are contributors to our winter air pollution.”

More information on Mayor Becker’s proposed anti-idling ordinance can be found at www.slcgov.com/opencityhall. Anyone interested in providing input on the proposed ordinance can quickly provide feedback using Open City Hall or via email to mayor@slcgov.com. More information about Idle-Free Awareness Month can be found at www.IdleFree.Utah.Gov.

###