

Resolution No. 251
Justin Willis

WHEREAS, school buses provide over 25 million children with safe transportation to and from school each day and travel 4 billion miles a year; and

WHEREAS, Justin Willis of SLPS High School and his art instructor have been active and enthusiastic participants in the 2009 “Idle Free-Turn the Key” District wide Art Contest. This contest is a partnership with the St Louis Public School District, The City of St. Louis, Grace Hill Settlement House-Clean Air Project, the Region 7 EPA and Prairie Archway International, Inc. and focuses on the benefits of idle free school districts on community health and environment; and

WHEREAS, he understands the importance of Clean Air, more importantly the importance of reducing toxic air emissions in the City of St. Louis; in order to reduce St. Louis City’s currently very high rates of asthma, eczema and respiratory illnesses among drivers, students, and area residents; and

WHEREAS, this contest was a District wide contest judged by SLPS Operations Administrators, City of St. Louis officials, former SLPS Art instructors and local artists at the Board of Education on October 2009; and

WHEREAS, this contest is supported by the St. Louis Public School District Office of Transportation, Operations and the St. Louis Public School District Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, this student has been awarded top distinction for his artistic ability and creativity; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Public Schools and its students are doing an excellent job at raising community awareness about excessive idling and reduced air pollution. This artwork will be used at local bus yards and in anti-idling publications and during local outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, reduced idling and the implementation of the “No Idling Zones” at each SLPS school will save the school district thousands of dollars in fuel costs and reduce asthma related school absences; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis Public School district uses more than 535 buses per day to transport children to and from school. The EPA grant that co sponsored this art contest will save more than 87, 884 gallons of diesel fuel per year, 454 tons of CO₂, 10.4 tons of NO_X, 26.5 tons of particulate matter and 345.2 tons of hydrocarbons from entering the cabs of buses and the air that students and drivers directly breathe; and

WHEREAS, everyday in America there are more than 450,000 yellow school buses on the road nationwide, and 390,000 of those are diesel; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has amended the City of St. Louis “No Idling” ordinance to prohibit idling for more than five minutes, meaning that reducing pollutants means simply turning your engines off. The current ordinance is ordinance #65645.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to commend Justin Willis for his efforts and wish him luck in his future artistic endeavors and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to include a copy of this Resolution in the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy for presentation at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on December 9th, 2009 by:

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President
Honorable Craig Schmid, 20th Ward

Adopted December 9th, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen