WHEREAS, to minimize air pollution and maximize fuel efficiency, it is the responsibility of all city employees to operate city vehicles and equipment in an environmentally and economically responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, one hour of idling consumes approximately one gallon of fuel; and

WHEREAS, idling for one hour equates to approximately 33 miles of engine wear on a standard automobile; and

WHEREAS, idling causes premature engine wear. An idling engine creates minimal oil pressure, resulting in insufficient engine lubrication; and

WHEREAS, diesel engines actually cool down when idling during cold weather, causing cab heat-loss; and

WHEREAS, drivers are exposed to elevated levels of exhaust while a vehicle is idling due to the lack of air circulation that typically occurs while the vehicle is in motion; and

WHEREAS, Franklin County does not meet Federal standards for ozone and particulate pollution. Idling contributes to poor air quality that may result in cost mandated controls; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael B. Coleman, Mayor of the City of Columbus, declare and institute this Executive Order outlining Vehicle Idling and Fuel Conservation Conduct. City employees operating city-owned vehicles are to:

• Not allow city vehicles and equipment to idle for any length of time unless idling the vehicle is necessary to accomplish a work-related task.

• Minimize idling and conserve fuel whenever possible.

• Ensure an assigned vehicle is properly maintained.

• Ensure tires are properly inflated. Under inflation decreases fuel economy and cuts short the life of the tire.

• Plan and map out trips to minimize distances traveled.

• Avoid “jackrabbit” starts by accelerating gradually, and anticipate stops to avoid sudden breaking.

• Obey posted speed limits. Excessive speed reduces fuel economy, increases air pollution, creates hazardous driving conditions and is unlawful.

• Car pool whenever possible or practical.

• Schedule meetings wisely, especially if travel is required. Meeting times and locations should be selected so as to minimize the travel of the majority of the participants.
• Reduce the amount of vehicle warm-up time. Consult vehicle manual to determine the manufacturer’s recommendations for guidance on idling in extreme weather conditions.

• Eliminate unnecessary weight in the vehicle.

• Ensure that vehicle emission controls, systems and components, are not altered or disconnected unless approved by the Administrator of the Fleet Management Division.

This order shall be in full force and effect after my signature is affixed to this document.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Mayor of the City of Columbus, Ohio, to be hereto affixed this 5th day of December 2005.

Michael B. Coleman
Mayor