



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
20th City Council

PO20CC-241

57th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- 2689, S-2018

**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTING A COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE PROGRAM,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Introduced by Councilors JULIENNE ALYSON RAE V.
MEDALLA and DIORELLA MARIA G. SOTTO.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Lena Marie P. Juico,
Elizabeth A. Delarmente, Alexis R. Herrera,
Ramon P. Medalla, Estrella C. Valmocina, Allan
Benedict S. Reyes, Franz S. Pumaren, Raquel S.
Malañgen, Marra C. Suntay, Hero Clarence M.
Bautista, Godofredo T. Liban II, and Eric Z. Medina.

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children;"

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) in June 2012, approximately 285 million people worldwide are visually impaired, 246 million have low vision and 39 million are blind, 80% of which are avoidable. Globally, uncorrected refractive errors are the main cause of visual impairment, while cataract remains the leading cause of blindness;

WHEREAS, results of the National Survey on Blindness in the Philippines in 2002 show that the prevalence of visual impairment (visual acuity worse than 6/18 in the better eye) is 4.62%; bilateral blindness (visual acuity less than counting finger at 3 meters) is 0.58%; monocular blindness is 0.71%; bilateral low vision (visual acuity worse than 6/18 but equal to or better than counting finger at 3 meters) is 1.43%, and monocular low vision is 0.87%;

WHEREAS, based on the 2015 population estimate, the current estimated number of persons in the country who are bilaterally blind is 295,152 of which 59% is due to cataract and 14% is due to uncorrected refractive errors;

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WHEREAS, one out of ten school age children would have eye problems which has impacts on their cognitive, language, motor, and social and emotional development. Twenty-five percent (25%) of these children would have amblyopia, a condition of abnormal visual development, which if left untreated before the age of seven may result to permanent vision loss to the affected eye;

WHEREAS, the WHO targets to reduce national blindness rates to less than 0.5% through the prevention and control of major avoidable causes of blindness and making essential eye care available to all;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and the National Committee for Sight Preservation has likewise adopted "Vision 2020 Philippines: The Right to Sight" in accordance with the WHO Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness. Vision 2020 Philippines works to (1) strengthen partnership with stakeholders to eliminate avoidable blindness, (2) empower communities to take proactive roles in the promotion of eye health and prevention of blindness, (3) provide access to quality eye care services for all, and (4) alleviate poverty through preservation and restoration of sight to indigent Filipinos;

WHEREAS, instituting in Quezon City a comprehensive eye care program which includes primary eye care, community participation, and wide inter-sectoral collaboration would provide an efficient system on the prevention, identification and treatment of visual impairment and blindness, and contribute to the promotion of the right to sight of Filipinos in line with Vision 2020 Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Quezon City Comprehensive Eye Care Ordinance".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It is hereby declared the policy of the City to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In line with this, the City shall institute a comprehensive approach and coordinate the efforts of different departments to ensure good vision and address visual impairment.

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SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS – For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Blindness* - a visual acuity of less than 3/60 or a corresponding visual field loss to less than 10 degrees in the better eye with the best possible correction;
- b) *Comprehensive Eye Care* – involves the prevention, identification and provision of assistance for the treatment of visual impairment and blindness;
- c) *Low vision* - visual acuity of less than 6/18 but equal to or better than 3/60, or a corresponding visual field loss to less than 20 degrees, in the better eye with the best possible correction;
- d) *Health Center* – refers to the primary health care facility located in the barangays under the Quezon City Health Department;
- e) *Vision Screening* - is a method to identify visual impairment or eye conditions that are likely to lead to vision loss so that a referral can be made to an appropriate eye care professional for further evaluation and treatment. It may include any of the following: inspection of the eye, pupils and red reflex, photo-screening, corneal light reflex testing, cover testing, and visual acuity testing; and
- f) *Visual Impairment* – a limitation of one or more functions of the eye which affects (1) the sharpness or clarity of vision (visual acuity); (2) the normal range of what can be seen (visual fields); and (3) colour. It includes both low vision and blindness.

SECTION 4. TRAININGS ON EYE CARE – The Quezon City Health Department (QCHD) in coordination with the Quezon City General Hospital (QCGH) and the Department of Health (DOH) shall provide trainings on eye care, vision screening, and other relevant services to community health workers, health center doctors, nurses and midwives; public day care teachers; and public school teachers.

SECTION 5. CONDUCT OF ANNUAL VISION SCREENING – An annual vision screening in Quezon City shall be spearheaded by the QCHD in (a) barangays, (b) public day care centers, (c) schools, and (d) other relevant venues. The screening shall be in coordination with the Barangays, the Social Services Development Department (SSDD), and the Quezon City Schools Division Office (QC-SDO).

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The trained doctors, nurses, midwives, Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and other support staff from the core group to conduct the vision screening.

SECTION 6. PROVISION OF SERVICES ON VISUAL IMPAIRMENT –
The following services shall be provided to qualified indigent Quezon City residents reported to have visual impairment:

- a) Referral to Quezon City General Hospital (QCGH), Novaliches District Hospital (NDH), or other government hospitals of patients needing further screening, medical care or surgical intervention;
- b) Assistance in the enrolment to Philhealth, through the Social Services Development Department (SSDD);
- c) Medicine assistance through the SSDD; and
- d) Referral/ Social Case Study Report to avail of financial assistance from other welfare agencies, through the SSDD.

SECTION 7. CONDUCT OF EYE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS –
The Quezon City Health Department (QCHD), all barangays, public health centers, day care centers, and public schools shall conduct annual programs and provide information, education and communication (IEC) materials on eye health in their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 8. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) –
The Quezon City Health Department (QCHD) in coordination with the Barangay and Community Relations Department (BCRD), SSDD, QC-SDO, QCGH, and NDH shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this Ordinance within sixty (60) days from its approval.

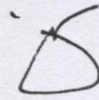
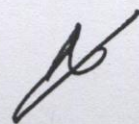
SECTION 9. APPROPRIATION – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be allotted in the annual budget of the City.

SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby, shall be in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE – All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, memorandum circulars, rules and regulations or any parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly. ✓

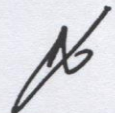
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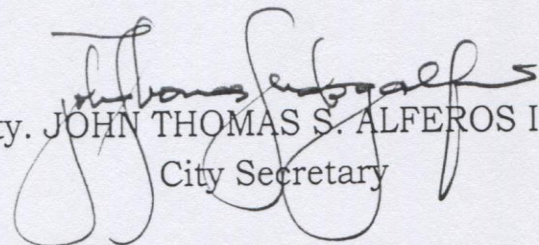


SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY CALUSE – This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

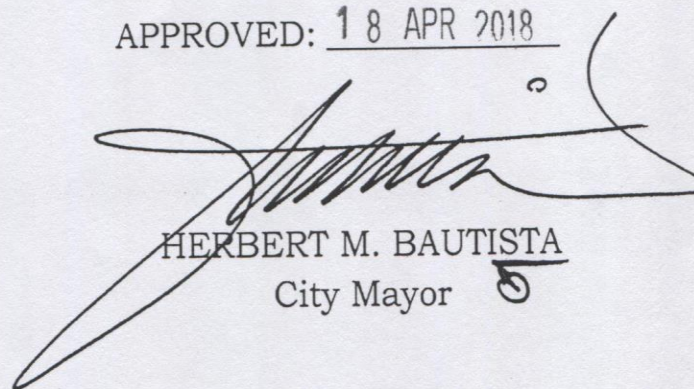
ENACTED: March 5, 2018.


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Secretary

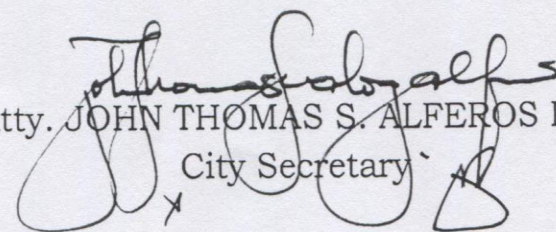
APPROVED: 18 APR 2018


HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on March 5, 2018 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on March 19, 2018.

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Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Secretary