

Parking rules for Maginhawa strip pushed

By Rio N. Araja

THE 37-member Quezon City Council is now studying a proposed measure that would regulate parking to solve traffic woes of establishment owners and patrons along the food hub Maginhawa Street.

The councilors, along with Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, organized a dialog with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's task force special operations, restaurant owners and other stakeholders from the area.

Residents and business operators on Maginhawa Street presented a position paper, requesting the MMDA to defer towing until vehicle owners were properly informed of their violation.

The city council planned to put up a designated parking lot and work with barangay officials in the area to address the concerns of the residents.

Because of its proximity to universities, the Maginhawa area has transformed into a popular hang-out for millennials who patronize unique establishments, such as boutique restaurants, hip cafes and bars, food parks and a cinema for independent films.

"When customers park to eat along Maginhawa Street, they find that their cars are already gone when they finish. They were not warned that their cars were going to be towed," Belmonte said.

She said the recent towing incidents could discourage clients to patronize the establishments in the area.