

Belmonte backs new tech vs crime

The Philippine Star · 8 Jun 2018 · 14 · – Janvic Mateo

Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte has expressed support for the proposal of the new city police chief to employ the use of new technology to address crime and ensure the safety of citizens.

Belmonte said she was recently briefed by newly appointed Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director Chief Superintendent Joselito Esquivel, who pushed for innovations in crime prevention initiatives in the city.

“I think we should really provide police and emergency services with new technologies to fight crimes and make our city safer. And we must admit that public security is a growing problem for cities not just here in our country but also worldwide,” said Belmonte.

“He (Esquivel) was asking me to support him on this and I said, of course, we’ll support him,” she added.

Belmonte said Esquivel, who has a background in information technology, raised the need to purchase analytical tools to reinforce the local police’s crime surveillance and prevention capabilities.

Even with hundreds of closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) installed around the city, Belmonte said most video surveillance technology is inefficient because of blind spots and low-quality imagery.

“But if you have analytics, algorithms will tell you there’s something wrong. General Esquivel believes that with analytics, you can solve or prevent street crimes,” she said.

Aside from analytical tools, Belmonte also noted the need for police patrol cars and policemen on foot patrols to have real-time access or live feeds from CCTV networks.

“In practice, it means police forces can have ‘eyes’ where they didn’t have before,” the vice mayor said.