

# QC APPROVES ordinance suspending increase in property values

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In a bid to lessen the burden on taxpayers who experience the effects of inflation caused by the Tax Reform and Acceleration and Inclusion law, the Quezon City Council approved on third and final reading an ordinance proposing to suspend the increase in fair market values (FMVs) of properties in QC for 2018 and 2019. “The fair market values in Quezon City were adjusted in December 1995, so the city really needs to raise market values because it’s long overdue. Right now, though, it’s imperative we suspend collection due to the consequences of inflation,” explained Councilor **Franz Pumaren**, Council’s majority floor leader. The proposed ordinance seeks to suspend the implementation of an ordinance passed in 2016 that enacts an updated schedule of FMVs for land and basic unit construction costs for buildings and other structures in QC. The city council then moved for the adjustment of the assessment level as set by the **City Assessor’s Office** from 18 percent to 5 percent for residential properties, and from 45 percent to 14 percent for commercial and industrial properties. But the ordinance was put on hold in 2016 after the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) based on a petition filed by the Alliance of Quezon City Homeowner’s Association Inc. questioning the legality of the ordinance. The TRO was lifted on Sept. 18, 2018 and ruled in favor of the city government.