

QC Council probes mall suicide cases

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The Quezon City Council will be conducting an inquiry in aid of legislation on a suicide incident at a mall last Saturday.

The probe will be spearheaded by Councilors Irene Belmonte, Lala Sotto and PM Vargas, chairpersons of the Committees on Education, Science and Technology, Health, and Infrastructure. This is the second recorded case of suicide by an adolescent inside a mall in the city.

A senior high school student also allegedly took his life at a mall last 5 October 2019 by jumping from the fifth floor of its annex building. The investigation would focus on mental health issues among the youth and find means on how to address these. It intends to craft a policy and guidelines to prevent similar incidents from happening anew.

Councilor Belmonte said it would include the creation of on-site crisis intervention units to assist establishments in dealing with these types of situations. She said they will look into the mall setup and the buildings on how they implement strict security, so as to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents in the future.

The inquiry will also invite school authorities and experts to get their insights on addressing adolescent mental health issues. The councilor instructed the City Health Department to ensure that the necessary steps are underway to fully implement the city's Ordinance SP-2456 S-2015, which provides for a community-based mental health program and delivery system.