

QC plastics ban moved to July

Ordinance 2876 prohibits the distribution and/or use of single-use plastics/ disposable materials

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Restaurants and hotels in Quezon City have until 1 July 2020 to comply with the ordinance banning single-use plastics and disposable materials for dine-in purposes. The Office of the Mayor approved the recommendation of the Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD), headed by Andrea Villaroman, to defer the 15 February 2020 implementation of Ordinance SP-2876, S-2019 due to “needed logistical adjustments” on the part of stakeholders.

It stated that City Hall understood the concerns of the affected establishments, thus the deferment of the implementation of the ordinance.

Introduced by Councilor Dorothy Delarmente and co-introduced by 35 other city councilors, Ordinance 2876 prohibits the distribution and/or use of single-use plastics/ disposable materials, including cutlery, for dine-in purposes in all hotels and restaurants in Quezon City.

The ban covers the use of throwaway plates, spoons, forks, cups and other plastic and paper disposables.

Villaroman made the recommendation to the mayor following a series of dialogues with stakeholders, including restaurants, fast-food chains and hotels, who expressed their commitment to the measure. However, they raised several concerns in terms of food safety and hygiene, logistical concerns and requirements and other issues regarding hotel and restaurant operations.

Finding their concerns reasonable, Villaroman recommended the deferment of the ordinance’s implementation, provided that stakeholders would come up with a transition plan detailing concrete steps to be undertaken to comply with the said regulation.

Villaroman said the plan, to be submitted within 30 days from 15 February, will include the introduction of recovery and recycling mechanisms for single-use plastics/ disposable materials.

The EPWMD is also constantly coordinating with the Philippine Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability to develop the recovery and recycling mechanisms for residual plastic and disposable materials, which can address those single-use wastes not covered by the ordinance.

Villaroman also reported that the implementation of the Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance, which started last 1 January 2020, is being followed by most of the relevant retailers.