



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
21st City Council

PO21CC-265
PO21CC-265-A

27th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-**2911**, S-2020

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ANY PERSON, WHETHER NATURAL OR JURIDICAL, FROM COMMITTING ANY ACT OR FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ANY CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) INFECTED PERSONS, RECOVERED PATIENTS, PERSONS UNDER MONITORING (PUMs) OR PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUIs), AND AGAINST PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DOCTORS, NURSES, HEALTH WORKERS, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AND VOLUNTEERS, AND OTHER SERVICE WORKERS, WHO ARE ASSIGNED IN HOSPITALS AND/OR OTHER HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS /CENTERS WHERE COVID-19 PATIENTS ARE BEING TREATED SITUATED WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF QUEZON CITY, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

Introduced by Councilors DOROTHY A. DELARMENTE, M.D., EDEN DELILAH "Candy" A. MEDINA, WENCEROM BENEDICT C. LAGUMBAY, KATE ABIGAEAL GALANG COSETENG, DIORELLA MARIA G. SOTTO, NOE DELA FUENTE, TANY JOE "TJ" L. CALALAY and WINSTON "Winnie" T. CASTELO.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Lena Marie P. Juico, Nicole Ella V. Crisologo, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Atty. Bong Liban, Franz S. Pumaren, Matias John T. Defensor, Jorge L. Banal Sr., Peachy V. De Leon, Ivy L. Lagman, Karl Castelo, Patrick Michael Vargas, Shaira L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Donato "Donny" C. Matias and Eric Z. Medina.

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991 clearly mandates the City Council to enact ordinances and adopt resolutions that would necessarily provide for the protection and promotion of health and safety, promotion of peace and order, comfort, and convenience of its inhabitants;

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WHEREAS, amid the recent menace and panic being created by the contagious new strain of Corona Virus, otherwise known as COVID-19, there are numerous reports of abuses and/or discriminations being suffered by COVID-19 patients, doctors, health and service workers, emergency personnel and volunteers who are serving the frontline in this war against the pandemic causing great inconvenience, untimely eviction, and outright harassment;

WHEREAS, several reports of harassments being committed by lessors forcibly evicting their lessees who are frontline workers due to fear and anxiety of possible COVID-19 disease transmission to the detriment of our COVID-19 infected persons, recovered patients, health and service workers;

WHEREAS, this alarmingly pervasive and unwarranted public stigma could drive COVID-19 infected patients, PUIs and PUMs into hiding, thus, they avoid seeking urgent necessary medical treatments and/or confinements which would make it difficult to abate the infectious disease and putting all at risk;

WHEREAS, the National Government through the Department of Health (DOH) in relation to the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) already raised the urgent need to address the discrimination presently being experienced by COVID-19 infected persons and recovered patients whether Persons under Investigation (PUI), Persons under Monitoring (PUM) including Doctors, Nurses and other frontline Health and Service Workers and volunteers assigned in hospitals and/or other health facilities/institutions, and in private establishments providing basic necessities;

WHEREAS, the City Council of Quezon City deems it imperative to condemn and penalize any act or forms of discrimination causing disgrace, shame, humiliation, and harassment being hurled against COVID-19 infected and recovered patients including health and service frontliners which would make their personal sacrifices doubly difficult amidst the pandemic

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NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN
REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE – *This Ordinance shall be known as the “COVID-19 Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of Quezon City.”*

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS –

1. *COVID-19 infected persons, Persons under Monitoring (PUM), Persons under Investigation (PUI), and COVID-19 recovered patients – are those persons defined by the Department of Health (DOH) and by the Inter-Agency Task force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) subject to existing health guidelines and protocols;*
 2. *Frontline Health Workers – are those persons tasked with direct and indirect delivery of care and services to the sick and ailing which includes, among others, doctors, nurses, hospital and clinic aides and laboratory technicians.*
 3. *Emergency Frontline Workers – are those persons providing emergency frontline services, border control and other critical services, this includes officers and members of the PNP, AFP, BFP and other government instrumentalities.*
 4. *Frontline Service Workers – are those person who are working in private establishments providing basic necessities and such activities related to food and medicine production, i.e. public markets, supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, hospitals, medical clinics pharmacies and drug stores, food preparation and delivery services, water-refilling stations, manufacturing and processing plants of basic food products and medicines, banks, money transfer services, power energy, telecommunications, water supplies and other related facilities.*
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SECTION 3. UNLAWFUL ACTS – *It shall be unlawful for any person, whether natural or juridical;*

1. *To commit any act or any forms of discrimination thereby causing or tend to cause shame, humiliation, harassment and abuse to a COVID-19 infected person or recovered patients, whether Persons under Investigation (PUI), Persons under Monitoring (PUM) including Doctors, Nurses and other frontline Health and Service Workers and volunteers assigned in Hospitals and/or other health facilities/institutions. This includes utterances which likewise causes the commission of the afore-described unlawful acts.*
2. *To publicly claim, post on social media, spread or announces that a particular person is infected or recovered, is under investigation, is under monitoring due to COVID-19 whether or not the same has been confirmed or validated from the list given by the authorized health officials, agency or department, shall be liable for violation of this Ordinance, except, when the patient expressly waived his right to privacy for purposes of contact tracing and other medical purposes.*
3. *To fail and/or refuse to extend assistance by any public officer to a health worker or frontliner who is COVID-19 infected, or recovered, under monitoring or investigation who intends to return to his/her residence or domicile after securing clearance of COVID-19 infection from authorized health official, agency or Department shall likewise be held liable under this Section.*

SECTION 4. PENALTIES – *Any person in violation of this Ordinance shall be meted with a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000,00) or imprisonment not exceeding Six (6) months or both at the discretion of the court.*

A maximum penalty shall be imposed if the person who committed the unlawful act under this Section is a public officer and an appropriate administrative case may be filed against the violating public officer.

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If committed by a juridical person, the President, General Manager or Corporate Secretary or person with related interest to the Corporation, Partnership or Association shall be held liable or penalized accordingly.

SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If, for any reason, any section or provisions of this Ordinance, or the application of such section, provision or portions is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder thereof shall not be affected by such declaration.


SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE – All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

Section 7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.


ENACTED: April 13, 2020.


GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

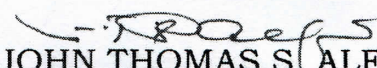

Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Government Dept. Head III

APPROVED: APR 16 2020


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on April 13, 2020 under Suspended Rules and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on the same date.


Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Government Dept. Head III