



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
22nd City Council

PO22CC-041

11th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- **3146**, S-2022

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FREE POSTNATAL SUPPLEMENTS TO BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS RESIDING IN QUEZON CITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Introduced by Councilors VICTOR "Vic" BERNARDO, DOROTHY A. DELARMENTE, M.D., IRENE R. BELMONTE, EMMANUEL BANJO A. PILAR and ERIC Z. MEDINA.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Joseph P. Juico, Nikki V. Crisologo, Charm M. Ferrer, Fernando Miguel "Mikey" F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Aly Medalla, Dave C. Valmocina, Tatay Rannie Z. Ludovica, Godofredo T. Liban II, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Geleen "Dok G" G. Lumbad, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Don S. De Leon, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Anton L. Reyes, Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Imee A. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Marra C. Suntay, Joseph Joe Visaya, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Ram V. Medalla, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Aiko S. Melendez, Mutya Castelo, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Kristine Alexia R. Matias, Vito Sotto Generoso, Alfredo "Freddy" Roxas and Noe Dela Fuente.

WHEREAS, Section 15, Article II of the Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them";

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution also provides that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers";

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WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", provides that the City shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Among other things, the City shall promote health and safety, and encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities;

WHEREAS, Article 24 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, recognized the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. Thus, States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services, and shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures to diminish infant and child mortality, and to ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers. The Philippines is a signatory to this Convention;

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival. Breastmilk is the ideal food for infants because it is safe, clean and contains antibodies, which help protect against many common childhood illnesses. Breastmilk likewise provides all the energy and nutrients that the infant needs for the first months of life, and it continues to provide up to half or more of a child's nutritional needs during the second half of the first year, and up to one third during the second year of life;

WHEREAS, based on a study by the WHO, sub-optimal breastfeeding globally is causing around 804,000 deaths per year of children under five years old. Moreover, several studies from around the world have shown that optimal breastfeeding dramatically reduces the risk of infants and young children dying in both developing and developed countries;

WHEREAS, a nationwide survey conducted by the National Statistics Office years ago revealed that only 34% of Filipino infants younger than six months are exclusively breastfed and 36% are fed with infant formula;

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute, nutrition is crucial during pregnancy and the first 1,000 days of life. It has been shown through scientific evidence that the foundations of a person's lifelong health, which includes the predisposition to obesity and certain chronic diseases, are largely set during this 1,000-day window. However, maternal malnutrition affects one in four mothers in the Philippines;

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WHEREAS, a healthy diet is often not enough to meet the nutrient requirements of mothers after childbirth. Thus, postnatal vitamins are necessary for the postpartum recovery of mothers and to provide through breastfeeding the nutrients required for the proper growth and development of babies;

WHEREAS, according to studies, drug prices in the Philippines are one of the most expensive in Southeast Asia, which limits the access of mothers to postnatal vitamins. This problem has been exacerbated by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic that adversely affected the livelihood and movement of the country's citizens. Thus, there is a need to provide free postnatal vitamins to breastfeeding mothers residing in Quezon City to ensure that their and their babies' nutritional needs are met.

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. TITLE. - This Ordinance shall be known as the "Free Postnatal Supplements for Breastfeeding QCitizen Mothers Ordinance of 2022".

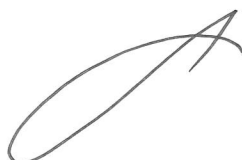
SECTION 2. COVERAGE. - The benefits provided by this Ordinance may be availed of by a woman who is a registered resident of Quezon City during the period she is breastfeeding her child within the twenty-four (24) months from her date of giving birth from the barangay health center that is nearest to her place of residence. The qualified beneficiary shall be required to undergo regularly monthly checkups at the same barangay health center.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF POSTNATAL SUPPLEMENTS. - As used in this Ordinance, the term "postnatal supplements" shall refer to supplements taken by a woman after giving birth while she is breastfeeding her child, which is intended to help in her postpartum recovery, and to provide her with adequate and proper nutrients to support her baby's growth, brain and nerve development and bone health.

SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTATION. - The City Health Department shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Ordinance within thirty (30) days from its date of effectivity.

SECTION 5. APPROPRIATION. - The Head of the City Health Department shall recommend to the City Finance Committee an appropriate amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Ordinance. The said fund shall be taken from Quezon City Health Department.

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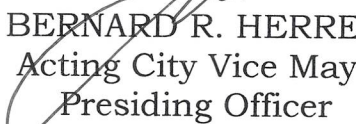


SECTION 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.


SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. - Any previous ordinances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.


ENACTED: October 10, 2022.


BERNARD R. HERRERA
Acting City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

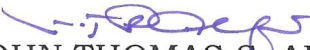

Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Government Dept. Head III

APPROVED: OCT 28 2022


GIAN G. SOTTO
Acting City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on October 10, 2022 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on October 17, 2022.


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

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