



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
22nd City Council

PO22CC-242

83rd Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- **3345**, S-2024

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING "SUNDAY CAR FREE, CAREFREE TOMAS MORATO" BY REGULATING THE USE AND CLOSING A PORTION OF TOMAS MORATO (FROM SCOUT RALLOS TO DON A. ROCES AVENUE) TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON SUNDAYS

Introduced by Councilor *IRENE R. BELMONTE*

Co-Introduced by Councilors *Bernard R. Herrera, Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., 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, 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, Eric Z. Medina, Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Vito Sotto Generoso, Victor "Vic" Bernardo, Jose Maria M. Rodriguez and Jhon Angelli "Sami" C. Neri*

WHEREAS, Section 458 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, authorizes the Sangguniang Panlungsod to regulate the use of streets, avenues, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, parks, and other public places and approve the construction, improvement, repair, and maintenance of the same;

WHEREAS, Section 21(d) of the Local Government Code of 1991 states that any city, municipality, or Barangay may, by a duly enacted ordinance, temporarily close and regulate the use of any local street, road, thoroughfare, or any other public place where shopping malls, Sunday flea or night markets, or shopping areas may be established and where goods, merchandise, foodstuffs, commodities, or articles of commerce may be sold and dispensed to the general public;

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WHEREAS, pursuant to the Quezon City Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Quezon City aims to become a High-Quality Community. This is characterized by a healthy, educated, and secure citizenry, a strong, diverse, and vibrant economy, a well-linked, balanced, and attractive cityscape, a clean, green, and resilient environment, and a dynamic and sustainable urban environment;

WHEREAS, according to the Quezon City Comprehensive Land Use Plan from 2009 to 2016, Quezon City maintained the largest share of greenery in total land area, partially fulfilling its role as a City. However, there was a notable decrease in the total area for open space from 3,265.87 hectares in 2009 to 3,186.23 hectares in 2013;

WHEREAS, more public spaces are needed in the Tomas Morato area to provide a diverse and balanced ecosystem for urban communities, promote psychological well-being, foster creativity, and increase access to cultural opportunities and social networks;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government prioritizes the health of its constituents by promoting walkability and encouraging residents to walk more and develop a healthy lifestyle;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government has demonstrated proactive efforts in the development of its bike lane plan, aiming to enhance the safety and accessibility of cycling infrastructure for its residents;

WHEREAS, good public spaces promote orderly and rational development through street connectivity;

WHEREAS, utilizing streets for public space attracts investment, diverse uses, and activities; it can also potentially increase property value, generating additional revenues;

WHEREAS, the temporary street closure is intended to enhance foot traffic, thus stimulating increased revenue for the local businesses in the vicinity;

WHEREAS, public spaces provide opportunities for economic development and enhanced livelihoods, contributing to increased tax revenue for local governments, adding value to the City's cultural, historical, and architectural heritage, enhancing urban attractiveness, and promoting tourism;

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WHEREAS, public spaces offer opportunities for social and cultural interaction, fostering a sense of belongingness;

WHEREAS, a good network of public spaces can improve public health by encouraging physical activity, reducing stress, and providing a calming environment;

WHEREAS, public spaces facilitate increased mobility by providing means of transportation such as walking, cycling, or by using public transport;

WHEREAS, green and open public spaces bring important environmental benefits, such as cooling the air and absorbing atmospheric pollutants;

WHEREAS, promoting inclusion through creating spaces friendly to women, children, youth, and the elderly is a key function of public spaces;

WHEREAS, temporary street closures can significantly benefit the City by promoting community engagement, fostering social interaction, and creating vibrant public spaces that contribute to the overall well-being of residents and visitors and provide opportunities for various activities, enhancing the local economy and encouraging sustainable and inclusive urban development;


WHEREAS, reclaiming streets as public spaces supports Sustainable Development Goal 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Temporary closures contribute to this goal by facilitating pedestrian-friendly environments, reducing traffic congestion, and promoting active transportation options such as walking and cycling;

WHEREAS, the commitment to the environment is reinforced through temporary street closures, which help reduce air and noise pollution, promote green spaces, and encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation, contributing to a more sustainable and ecologically responsible urban environment.

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 “Sunday Car Free, Carefree Tomas Morato Ordinance of Quezon City.”



SECTION 2. SCOPE. – This Ordinance shall cover a portion of Tomas Morato from Scout Rallos to Don A. Roces Avenue within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.

SECTION 3. PURPOSES. – The purposes of this Ordinance are to:

- a. create additional public space in the Tomas Morato area, promoting diverse urban ecosystems that support well-being, creativity, and access to cultural and social opportunities;*
- b. prioritize health by encouraging walkability and healthy lifestyles, developing bike lanes, and increasing street connectivity;*
- c. enhance foot traffic;*
- d. stimulate revenue for local businesses;*
- e. provide economic development opportunities; and*
- f. emphasize the importance of public spaces in fostering social and cultural interaction, improving public health, and creating vibrant spaces for sustainable urban development.*

SECTION 4. GENERAL PROVISION. – Any motorized vehicle shall not be allowed to traverse and park along Tomas Morato from Scout Rallos to Don A. Roces from 06:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. every Sunday, subject to the terms and schedule outlined in the succeeding provision.

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTATION. – To fully realize the purposes of this Ordinance and to determine its effectiveness, the following phases should be observed in the implementation of this Ordinance:

- a. 1st Phase: Within 1 year from the approval of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), the prohibition will be enforced on the 1st Sunday of each month from 6:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.*
- b. 2nd Phase: After the initial 1-year period, the prohibition shall be every other Sunday of the month:*

(1) The Technical Working Group (TWG) established under Section 8 of this Ordinance shall continuously monitor the situation, assessing the effects of this phase to determine whether adjustments are, or a full implementation is, necessary; and

(2) The TWG shall submit a report to the Quezon City Council, providing recommendations on whether a full implementation of the Ordinance is warranted based on the observed outcomes.

SECTION 6. EXEMPTION. – The following vehicles shall be exempted from the prohibition provided under this Ordinance:

- a. Fire Trucks;
- b. Ambulance;
- c. Police Mobile;
- d. Delivery Trucks of Establishment within the Area; and
- e. Other similar vehicles, as mentioned above.

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR). – The Business Permits and Licensing Department (BPLD), as the Lead Agency, shall prepare the corresponding Implementing Rules and Regulations within 90 days after the approval of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG). – The following Departments shall form part of the TWG and shall oversee the closure and management of Tomas Morato, from Scout Rallos to Don A. Roces Avenue, during the Car-free, Carefree Tomas Morato Sundays:

- a. Office of the City Mayor;
- b. Office of the City Administrator;
- c. Business Permits and Licensing Department;
- d. Quezon City Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department;
- e. City Engineering Department;
- f. Traffic and Transport Management Department (TTMD);
- g. Department of Public Order and Safety;
- h. Quezon City Tourism Department; and
- i. A representative from an association or organization of Business Establishments in Tomas Morato.

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SECTION 9. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TWG. – The TWG shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

A. Assess the Impact of the Closure:

- (1) Conduct a comprehensive review of the effects on local businesses, traffic flow, the environment, and the community;
- (2) Prepare an Economic Impact Assessment to understand the financial implications for businesses and the community;
- (3) Perform a Traffic Impact Study to identify potential disruptions and implement alternative routes or management strategies;
- (4) Carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment to evaluate changes in air quality and overall carbon footprint reduction as a result of the road closure.

B. Recommend Programs and Activities:

- (1) Develop and propose events or programs that align with the objectives of the Car-free Carefree Tomas Morato Sundays, promoting sustainability and community engagement;
- (2) Propose support activities for affected businesses, such as promotional campaigns, creating al-fresco dining, community engagement initiatives, or temporary business stalls;
- (3) Recommend infrastructure improvements that can enhance the pedestrian experience, such as the development of bike lanes, pedestrian pathways, and urban greening projects.

C. Create Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials:

- (1) Design and disseminate materials to educate the public about the purpose and benefits of the Car-free Carefree Tomas Morato Sundays, particularly in terms of sustainability, environmental impact, and community participation;
- (2) Use various media platforms to promote public awareness and encourage participation in the event.

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D. Monitor and Manage Implementation:

- (1) Ensure that all operational aspects of the road closure, from traffic management to public safety and environmental monitoring, are carried out efficiently;*
- (2) Provide regular reports on the events' outcomes, successes, and challenges, and make recommendations for future improvements.*

E. Ensure Coordination Among Stakeholders:

- (1) Work closely with local businesses, residents, and organizations to address any concerns or issues that may arise from the closure;*
- (2) Coordinate with other government agencies to ensure seamless execution of the event.*

F. Signage and Advisory:

- (1) Signages and advisory notices shall be installed at clearly visible strategic points in the area. The advisory shall indicate the ordinance number, time and day of implementation, general provisions, and alternate routes. The City Engineering Department, in coordination with the TTMD, shall provide these signage and advisory notices;*
- (2) The TTMD shall ensure the provision of quality transport catchments, access routes, and stops to and from Tomas Morato.*

SECTION 10. APPROPRIATIONS. – There shall be a budget, which will be sourced from the available funds of the Office of the City Mayor, appropriated for the activities to be conducted during the days when the subject area of this Ordinance is closed.

SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If any part or section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or sections not affected thereby shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other administrative issuances contrary to the provisions herein shall be deemed amended or repealed upon the enactment of this Ordinance.

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SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – It shall be effective immediately upon publication and approval.

ENACTED: September 16, 2024.



GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:



ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

APPROVED: DEC 2 2024



MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on September 16, 2024 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on September 23, 2024.



ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III
City Government Department Head III
(City Council Secretary)

