



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
22nd City Council

PO22CC-346

100th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- 3418, S-2024

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION TOWARDS FIRE SAFETY AT POINTS OF INGRESS AND EGRESS IN ALL PLACES OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF QUEZON CITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Councilor CHARM M. FERRER

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

WHEREAS, under Section 2, Article X of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, local government units (LGUs) shall enjoy local autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, empowers LGUs to 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;

WHEREAS, the same section mandates LGUs to promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

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WHEREAS, Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9514, otherwise known as the Revised Fire Code of the Philippines, as amended, mandates that the State shall ensure public safety and promote economic development through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires and ensure adherence to standard fire prevention and safety measures, and promote accountability for fire safety in the fire protection service and prevention service;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the same Law prohibits and penalizes obstructing or blocking the exit ways, obstructing designated fire lanes or access to fire hydrants or locking fire exits during period when people are inside the building;

WHEREAS, Section 7.0.2.1, Rule 7 of the 2019 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Republic Act No. 9514 provides that LGUs shall render assistance to the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) through the strict observance of the requirement of fire safety measures for the issuance of Fire Safety Inspection Certificate (FSIC) as a prerequisite in the grant of and renewal of business, occupancy and other related permits/licenses;

WHEREAS, in line with the statutory mandates of LGUs, Quezon City has been proactive in ensuring that buildings and structures comply with national standards to mitigate risks and has, for this purpose, promulgated Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-2518, S-2016, otherwise known as the Local Building Code of Quezon City of 2016, and Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-2290, S-2014, establishing the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, among others;

WHEREAS, despite these policies in place and the laudable efforts of the BFP Quezon City Fire District, fire investigations have uncovered that deaths and casualties from fire incidents still occur because of the obstruction of fire exits in buildings or the difficulty in locating them in cases of fire;

WHEREAS, in the 1st and 2nd quarters of the year 2023 alone, BFP data showed that there were 153 fires recorded in Quezon City from January to August 23, which was higher compared to the 219 fire-reported incidents in the entire year of 2022; among these incidents was the tragic August 31, 2023 fire incident in Tandang Sora that left 15 people dead, partly due to inaccessibility to and obstructions in fire exits;

WHEREAS, according to the BFP, in 2024, fire incidents were up by 25% nationwide and a total of 3,044 fire incidents were reported from January 1 to March 1 of the year 2024, from 2,424 incidents logged in the same period in the year 2023;

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WHEREAS, in November 2024, a fire hit the establishment of Commonwealth Market in the City, reportedly razing at least 100 stalls in the dry goods section, which again highlights the importance of comprehensive fire prevention measures in safeguarding the lives and property of QCitizens;

WHEREAS, during fire incidents, main fire exit doors serve as critical points of egress during emergency situations, particularly in public institutions and clear signages on fire exit doors figure prominently in efficient evacuation procedures during fire emergencies;

WHEREAS, obstruction-free access to fire exit doors is imperative to facilitate swift evacuation and minimize risks during fire incidents, so much so that the 2019 RIRR of Republic Act No. 9514 has set out extensive prohibitions against any obstruction to fire exit doors, mandating in Section 10.2.5.10 thereof that any fire escape must provide a continuous unobstructed safe path of travel to the ground or other area of refuge to which they lead;

WHEREAS, mandating the installation of clear signages for all fire exits and prohibiting any obstruction in ingress and egress points in all places of accommodations and public institutions in Quezon City aligns with the Quezon City Government's commitment to fostering a safer environment for all individuals and underscores the importance of prioritizing fire safety as a fundamental aspect of public infrastructure management.

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. TITLE. – This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the "Safety in Fire Emergencies Ordinance of Quezon City."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. – It is hereby declared a policy of the Quezon City Government to ensure the public safety of QCitizens through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires. Towards this end, the Quezon City Government shall recognize and address the potential risks posed by fire emergencies within public institutions or places of public accommodation and shall require entities and persons to strictly comply with the Revised Fire Code of the Philippines, as amended, and statutes, administrative issuances, and ordinances aimed at promoting adherence to standard fire prevention and safety measures and promote accountability for fire safety. It shall render the necessary assistance and support to the BFP to effectively carry out its mandate for the welfare and safety of QCitizens within its jurisdiction.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

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1. **Clear Signage** - means any easily visible and understandable indicator that clearly, accurately, and distinctively identifies the location of fire exit doors, ensuring that they can be readily located during emergency situations;
2. **Fire Exit** - means the pathway identified as the egress out of an establishment in case of fire and other emergencies;
3. **Ingress/Egress**- means the external pathways to and from the establishment;
4. **Obstruction** - means any physical barrier, object, or impediment that hinders or obstructs the free access of ingress/egress and fire exits and are considered fire hazards;
5. **Person-in-charge** - means the president/manager in case of a company, corporation, partnership or association, the owner/proprietor/operator in case of single proprietorship or the administrator in case of government or private property, facility, office or building, and the city schools superintendent, school president, dean or principal in case of schools; and
6. **Place of public accommodation” or “public institution** - means any facility, structure, building, or improvement owned, operated, managed, or administered by private or government-owned organization, facility, or business, that provides services or goods to the public or which are open to the public, whether fully or partially, for the purpose of commerce, including but not limited to, educational facilities like schools and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, healthcare institutions like hospitals and clinics, government buildings, recreational venues like hotels, restaurants, and any other establishments open to the public.

SECTION 4. SCOPE. – This Ordinance applies generally and comprehensively to all places of public accommodations and public institutions within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.

SECTION 5. CLEAR SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS. – It is hereby mandated that all main fire exit doors at places of public accommodations or public institutions shall be installed with a clear signage, in accordance with the principles of proactive risk mitigation and emergency preparedness and in compliance with the standards set in the 2019 RIRR of Republic Act No. 9514, as amended.

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SECTION 6. PROHIBITION ON OBSTRUCTION. – It is hereby mandated that all main fire exit doors at places of public accommodations or public institutions shall be designed as easily openable and without obstructions, in accordance with the principles of proactive risk mitigation and emergency preparedness and in compliance with the standards set in the 2019 RIRR of Republic Act No. 9514, as amended.

SECTION 7. STANDARDS. – Persons-in-charge of places of public accommodation or public institutions shall undertake the necessary measures to ensure compliance with Sections 5 and 6 of this Ordinance, consistent with the applicable provisions of 2019 RIRR of Republic Act No. 9514, as amended.

SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT. – Without prejudice to the duties or remedies of the local government under applicable laws, the Quezon City Government shall render the necessary institutional, operational, or technical support or assistance to the BFP to ensure fire safety at points of ingress or egress in all places of public accommodations and public institutions within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.

The Quezon City Government shall, among others, observe the requirement of fire safety measures for the issuance of Fire Safety Inspection Certificate (FSIC) as a prerequisite in the grant of and renewal of business, occupancy and other related permits/licenses. For this purpose, the Quezon City Business Permits and Licensing Department (QC-BPLD) shall refrain from issuing such licenses and/or permits to covered institutions, persons, or entities, without the applicant first securing an FSIC from the BFP, subject to Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act;

SECTION 9. PENALTIES. – Violations of this Ordinance shall be punishable in accordance with applicable penalties provided under Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9514 and other applicable laws.

SECTION 10. REPORTING. – Any person using any place of public accommodation or any public institution may report any violation of this Ordinance to the BFP or the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) of Quezon City for immediate referral to the BFP for appropriate response and dispensation.

SECTION 11. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The QC-BPLD and DPOS, in consultation and coordination with the Quezon City Department of Engineering, Quezon City Architect Department, Department of the Building Official, BFP, and/or other appropriate national government agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Ordinance no later than 120 days upon the effectivity of this Ordinance.

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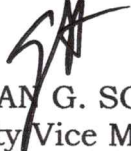
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SECTION 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – Should any provision of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.


SECTION 13. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All Quezon City ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, memorandum circulars, and administrative regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Ordinance shall take effect after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation, and after posting of copies in conspicuous locations within Quezon City.


ENACTED: December 9, 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: FEB 05 2025


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on December 9, 2024 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading under Suspended Rules on the same date.


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



