Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
20th City Council

PO20CC-215

45th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- **2638** *, S-2017*

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING THE PRESERVATION OF CENTURY AND HERITAGE TREES IN THE JURISDICTION OF QUEZON CITY.

Introduce by Councilors GIAN CARLO G. SOTTO and ELIZABETH A. DELARMENTE.
Co-Introduced by Councilors Anthony Peter D. Crisologo, Lena Marie P. Juico, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Oliviere T. Belmonte, Alexis R. Herrera, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Voltaire Godofredo L. Liban III, Ramon P. Medalla, Ranulfo Z. Ludovica, Estrella C. Valmocina, Roderick M. Paulate, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Franz S. Pumaren, Eufemio C. Lagumbay, Marvin C. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Ivy Xenia L. Lagman, Marra C. Suntay, Hero Clarence M. Bautista, Jose A. Visaya, Karl Edgar C. Castelo, Julienne Alyson Rae V. Medalla, Godofredo T. Liban II, Allan Butch T. Francisco, Marivic Co-Pilar, Melencio "Bobby" T. Castelo, Jr., Diorella Maria G. Sotto, Donato C. Matias, Eric Z. Medina and Ricardo B. Corpuz.

WHEREAS, trees and other woody vegetation in cities provide for social amenities and various environmental and economic benefits including: improving air and water quality, reducing noise pollution, floods, preventing soil erosion, cooling urban heat islands, reducing the energy required to cool and heat buildings, and residences;

WHEREAS, trees have become the symbol of the environmental movement throughout the world, including our city;

WHEREAS, century trees have historical roots and can be effective symbols for taking care of our environment;

WHEREAS, in order to generate active participation among our people, particularly our youth, with regard to our environment, the city deems fit to establish programs that will take care of trees by preserving "century trees".

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 "Century and Heritage Tree Ordinance".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION – All trees identified to have lived for more than 100 years shall be declared as "Century Trees".

Important trees species which have not yet reached 100 years old but are considered ecological, historically or culturally valuable or belonging to rare species, or are adjacent or near a water source, spring or well and whose cutting or destruction will disrupt or destroy the water source, shall be declared as "Heritage Trees" and shall receive the same protection under this Ordinance.

SECTION 3. CREATION OF SPECIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE – The Office of the City Mayor shall create and establish a Special Technical Committee composed of Representatives coming from the Parks Development and Administration Department (PDAD), Environmental Protection and Waste Management Department (EPWMD), City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-Forestry, with PDAD as the lead agency, to evaluate, determine and approve the declaration of Century and Heritage Trees.

Barangay Officials, School Authorities, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) or People's Organizations (POs) shall submit to the Parks Development and Administration Department a listing of the prospective trees, and who will thereafter, forward the list to the Special Technical Committee for confirmation, validation and approval.

Upon the declaration of a tree as a century tree or heritage tree, a metal plate or marker shall be issued and strapped to the tree.

SECTION 4. PRIVATE AGREEMENT – Any century tree that has been identified and found to be inside a private lot, shall be covered by a written agreement between the lot owner and the City Government and Barangay Chairman, stating among others, that the private owner had voluntarily approved the tree to be declared as a century tree or heritage tree and the tree shall now be protected under this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. PROHIBITION – All trees declared as "Century and Heritage Trees" shall not be subjected to any cutting or any form of destruction, except for medical, public emergency, public safety and botanical reasons and shall be preserved and maintained in its natural state. The prohibition shall apply to all plants and animals that live within or are dependent on said tree for their survival, including mammals, birds, reptiles or ferns.

SECTION 6. (a) The Government shall maintain a list of all trees declared as "Century and Heritage Trees" and shall conduct yearly review and inspection to maintain said trees, and update newly discovered "Century and Heritage Trees".

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(b) Each Declared "Century and Heritage Tree" shall be strapped with the use of a metal plate, and inscribed therein the following information, to wit:

1. *The name of the tree (scientific and local)*
2. *Date of Declaration*
3. *The approximate age*
4. *The Tree Registry Number*
5. *Location of the Tree*

(c) The following words shall also appear in the metal plate.

"THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF QUEZON CITY DECLARES THE TREE AS A "CENTURY AND HERITAGE TREE" AND ALL CITIZENS ARE ENJOINED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THIS TREE AS PART OF OUR NATURAL TREASURE AND PATRIMONY".

Or

"IPINAHAHAYAG NG PAMAHALAANG LUNGSOD NG QUEZON ANG PUNONGKAHOY BILANG "CENTURY AND HERITAGE TREE" AT ANG LAHAT NG MAMAMAYAN AY HINIHIKAYAT NA ITO AY PANGALAGAAN BILANG BAHAGI NG ATING MINANANG LIKAS NA YAMAN".

SECTION 7. Every Year, within the week of the Arbor day celebration, the city and all barangays, headed by the City Mayor and the respective Punong Barangays shall conduct a "search" for a century and Heritage Tree Activity. A Tree Celebration activity for already identified "Century and Heritage Trees" in addition to the Tree Planting activity during Arbor Day shall also be conducted.

SECTION 8. PENALTY CLAUSE – Any person or entity caught violating the provision of Section 5 hereof, or cuts or destroys the tree or any of its branches, attached plants and ferns and endangering the animals living therein shall be punished with a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per violation, and/or imprisonment of six (6) months.

The City may choose to impose an administrative fine of P500.00 for the 1st offense, P1,000.00 for the 2nd offense and P2,000.00 for the 3rd offense in lieu of the Court case.

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SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE – All ordinances, executive orders inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby deemed repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If for any reason or reasons any provision of this Ordinance be declared illegal by a competent court, other provisions which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – This Ordinance shall take effect upon approval and shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

ENACTED: October 2, 2017.

MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III

APPROVED: 28 NOV 2017

HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on October 2, 2017 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on October 23, 2017.

Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III

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