(City Council)

PO2001-221

24th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-1126 S-2002

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USE AND/OR OPERATION OF CELLULAR PHONES, PAGERS AND/OR BEEPERS, POINTER AND/OR LASER LIGHTS, PORTABLE RADIOS, AND OTHER SIMILAR ELECTRONIC DEVICES THAT EMIT AND/OR PERFORM DISTRACTIVE SOUNDS, WHILE INSIDE OR IN ATTENDANCE TO, COURTS OF LAW, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES, SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES OF ALL LEVELS, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, IN MOVIE HOUSES, THEATERS, TELEVISION STUDIOS, CHURCHES AND OTHER PLACES OF WORSHIP, WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF QUEZON CITY, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE(S).

Introduced by Councilors JULIAN M.L. COSETENG, MARY ANN L. SUSANO and FRANZ S. PUMAREN.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Elizabeth A. Delarmente, Bernadette R. Cruz-Herrera, Rommel R. Abesamis, Voltaire Godofredo L. Liban III, Ramon P. Medalla, Eric Z. Medina, Mary Ann L. Susano, Jorge L. Banal, Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay, Alma F. Montilla, Antonio E. Inton, Jr., Janet M. Malaya, Restituto B. Malañgen and Almario E. Francisco.

WHEREAS, advances in communication, from beepers to cellular phones capable of sending and receiving text messages and even surfing the internet, have never been so readily available to our people than today;

WHEREAS, the benefits derived from these advances are numerous, however, the improper and indiscrimate use and operation of the said devices has incurred undesirable effects, among them complaints from people who are irritated, distracted, and/or disturbed with the incessant sounds or lights that signal incoming or outgoing messages;

WHEREAS, it is a known fact that Quezon City plays a host to a lot of government offices including the House of Representatives, the Sandiganbayan, the Sangguniang Panlungsod, the National Labor Relations Commission, and the different courts of law, to name a few;

WHEREAS, in all the said offices, utmost respect of the proceedings and proper decorum is expected whenever official sessions are held;

WHEREAS, the indescriminate use of said devices also in places of worship and entertainment, especially when in an enclosed area can also irritate and distract other people whose main purpose of going to said places is either to commune with their god or to be able to relax and be entertained;

WHEREAS, students while inside their classrooms or attending supervised/organized school activities ought to devote their time and attention to learning and not for other purpose(s).

WHEREAS, it is only proper to regulate the use or operation of beepers, cellular phones, portable radios, pointer and/or laser lights, and other electronic devices whenever inside the afore-mentioned places.

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. The use and/or operation of cellular phones, pagers and/or beepers, pointer and/or laser lights, portable radios, and other similar electronic devices that emit and/or perform distractive sounds and/or lights inside places where official functions are performed, such as, but not limited to, courts of law, legislative assemblies, schools and universities of all levels, public libraries, and in places of entertainment such as in movie houses, within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City is hereby regulated as follows:

a. For cellular phones, pagers, beepers and other similar electronic devices, it shall be enough that they be put on a silent mode.

b. For laser and other similar devices, the same shall be turned off.

SECTION 2. Any person who violates the provision of Section 1 shall be punishable by a fine of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00).

SECTION 3. For movie theaters, concert halls and other similar places of entertainment, it shall be the responsibility of the owners and/or administrators of the above-mentioned places to post at the entrance of their premises and in such other conspicuous places the prohibition embodied herein, and likewise, to make the announcement before each show and/or screening. Failure of the said owner and/or administrator to abide by his/her responsibility shall be punishable by a fine of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00.)

SECTION 4. For places of worship, legislative assemblies, theaters, television studios, courts of justice and other similar places, it shall be the responsibility of the administrators of the above-mentioned places to post at the entrance of the premises and in such other conspicuous places the prohibition embodied herein. Failure of the said owner and/or administrator to abide by his/her responsibility shall be punishable by a fine of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00.)

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED: February 26, 2002.

ALMARIO E. FRANCISCO
Acting Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Council Secretary

APPROVED: April 10, 2002

FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance which was originally APPROVED on Second Reading on February 12, 2002, was reconsidered and finally PASSED by the City Council under Suspended Rules on February 26, 2002.

EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Council Secretary

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