54th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-1673, S-2006
(PO2005-213)

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS TO QUALIFIED SOLO PARENTS OF QUEZON CITY FOR THE AVAILMENT OF ASSISTANCE UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000".

Introduced by Councilors RESTITUTO B. MALAÑGEN, ROMMEL ABESAMIS, ERIC Z. MEDINA, FRANCISCO A. CALALAY, JR. and JANET MALAYA.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernadette Herrera-Dy, Elizabeth A. Delarmente, Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, Voltaire Godofredo L. Liban III, Allan Butch T. Francisco, Franz S. Pumaren, Antonio E. Inton, Jr and Xyrus L. Lanot.

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development;

WHEREAS, Section 458 (a) (2) (i) of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 empowers the Sangguniang Panlungsod to enact ordinances or resolutions in order to generate and maximize the use of resources and revenues for the development plans, program objectives and priorities of the city with particular attention to city-wide growth and progress; and relative thereto, shall appropriate funds for specific programs, projects, services and activities of the city, or for other purposes not contrary to law, in order to promote the general welfare of the city and its inhabitants;

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WHEREAS, it has been observed that qualified solo parents residing within Quezon City cannot avail or enjoy the needed assistance, benefits and privileges accorded to them under Republic Act No. 8972 due to the unavailability of identification cards to be issued by the Social Services Development Department;

WHEREAS, Solo Parents Identification Card is necessary for the availment of assistance and benefits such as a comprehensive package of social development and welfare services, flexible work schedule, parental leave, educational benefits, housing benefits and medical assistance;

WHEREAS, the Social Services Development Department is in dire need of funds in order to facilitate the printing of identification cards that will be issued to qualified solo parents.

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. The Ordinance hereby provides for the issuance of Identification Cards, to qualified solo parents of Quezon City for the availment of assistance and benefits under Republic Act No. 8972, otherwise known as the "Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000".

The Social Services Development Department shall make a provision at the back of the identification card, including the privileges, assistance and benefits mentioned under Republic Act 8972 or to give separate copies of said Act to each qualified Solo Parents upon issuance of identification card.

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SECTION 2. Any solo parent whose income in the place of domicile falls equal to or below the poverty threshold as set by the National Statistics Coordinating Board (NSCB) and subject to assessment of the duly appointed or designated social worker in the area shall be eligible for assistance; provided, however, that any solo parent whose income is above the poverty threshold shall enjoy the benefits to be provided by the concerned department/office.

SECTION 3. A solo parent seeking benefits shall be qualified on the basis of the following:

a. He/she must be a resident of Quezon City as certified by the Barangay Captain; provided, that if the Solo Parent is a Transferee from another barangay, he/she is required to secure a clearance from his/her previous barangay, indicating whether or not he/she has availed of any benefits for solo parents, and the nature of such benefits.

b. He/she must have an income level equal to or below the poverty threshold as set forth by NSCB and assessed by the Social Services Development Department.

SECTION 4. An applicant who manifests the need for assistance under Republic Act No. 8972 is subject to assessment by a social worker of Social Services Development Department. The assessment shall cover, but not limited to, the following:

a. Determination of the applicant's category, as defined under this Ordinance;

b. Evaluation of the needs of the applicant and his/her children as basis for provision of the appropriate service and intervention;

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c. Identification of the level of readiness of the applicant to receive a particular service/assistance, which shall serve as basis for the conduct of social preparation activities prior to the provision of such service/assistance;

d. Identification of existing and potentially available resources that may support the applicant and his/her children;

SECTION 5. A person who needs assistance under Republic Act No. 8972 shall comply with the following process:

a. Visit the office of the Social Services Development Department to manifest her/his need for assistance.

b. Fill out application form for the assistance, indicating but not limited to, the following:

1. Name
2. Age
3. Address
4. Income per month
5. Source/s of income
6. Number of children
7. Circumstances of being solo

c. Undergo the necessary assessment process.

d. A social case study report shall be prepared by the social worker based on the information/data provided for the applicant as well as his/her assessment of said applicant, indicating therein the appropriate services needed.

e. A social case study report, together with a referral letter prepared by the social worker, shall be forwarded by the Social Services Development Department to the office/department concerned providing the appropriate assistance/service.

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f. The social worker shall inform the solo parent of the status of his/her application within thirty (30) working days from the filing of such and shall require him/her to visit the office/department providing assistance. In case the applicant is not qualified for services under RA No. 8972 he/she will be referred to appropriate office/department for assistance.

g. Upon favorable evaluation of the social worker, a Solo Parent Identification Card shall be issued to the solo parent within thirty (30) days upon application duly signed by the Head of the Social Services Development Department and the City Mayor. The Solo Parent Identification Card is necessary for the availment of benefits under RA No. 8972. Such Identification Card shall be valid for only one (1) year but may be renewed subject to a new assessment and evaluation.

SECTION 6. A qualified Solo Parent may apply for benefits under Republic Act No. 8972 through the following:

a. The solo parent may go to the department/office providing such benefit bringing with her/him the Identification Card issued by the Social Services Development Department;

b. Undergo the necessary qualifying activities required by the department/office as prescribed by these Ordinance; and

c. Comply with the requirements set forth by the department/agency providing the service for the duration of the assistance (e.g. schooling, housing) subject to existing rules of the departments/offices concerned.

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SECTION 7. A solo parent shall manifest to the Social Services Development Department his/her intention to withdraw the availment of the benefits under RA No. 8972. If the solo parent does not voluntarily manifest his/her intention to terminate the provision of benefits and services before the lapse of one year from the issuance of the solo parent I.D., the social worker, based on the report of the employer or any interested person shall conduct the necessary assessment/evaluation to ascertain if grounds for termination and withdrawal of benefits exists. The Identification Card shall cease to be effective upon the lapse of one (1) year from issuance, unless renewed based on a new assessment and evaluation. Failure to renew will mean that he/she changed his/her status as a solo parent.

The solo parent shall be informed of the result of the assessment/evaluation and termination of the service, if warranted, through written notice. The termination shall take effect 30 days from the receipt of the notice of termination. In cases when the service cannot be terminated in a period of one (1) month, e.g. schooling, the service shall be completed until its due time.

The solo parent and his/her children shall undergo psychosocial counseling with the social worker to prepare them for independent living.

SECTION 8. In the event a solo parent decides to relocate his/her family, he/she shall inform the Social Services Development Department. Said office shall thereupon transmit the records to the city Social Services Development Department of the place of relocation, who shall then be responsible to assign a social worker to monitor the status of the relocated solo parents and his/her family and to coordinate with the concerned agencies/departments/offices of any changes in the status of the solo parent receiving benefits from said agencies/departments/offices.

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SECTION 9. The funds in order to facilitate the printing of Identification Cards shall be taken from any available funds of the City Mayor.

ENACTED: March 20, 2006.

HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Secretary

APPROVED: APR 12 2006

FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance which was APPROVED on Second Reading on March 20, 2006, was finally PASSED on Third/Final Reading by the City Council, under Suspended Rules on the same date.

EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Secretary

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