

## Republic of the Philippines QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City 22<sup>nd</sup> City Council

PO22CC-144

24th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP. 3186 , S-2023

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION ON BOMB THREATS, EXPLOSIVES, OR ANY OTHER LIFE-THREATENING OR DESTRUCTIVE MATERIALS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR.

Introduced by Councilors DOROTHY A. DELARMENTE, M.D., ALY MEDALLA, BERNARD R. HERRERA, and TATAY RANNIE Z. LUDOVICA.

WHEREAS, Section 4, Article II, of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that, "The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people";

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1727, entitled "Declaring As Unlawful the Malicious Dissemination of False information or the Willful Making of any Threat Concerning Bombs, Explosives or Any Similar Device or Means of Destruction and Imposing Penalties Therefor" was signed on 08 October 1980. The penalty against such activities is imprisonment of not less than five (5) years or a fine of not more than Forty Thousand Pesos (Php40,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court;

WHEREAS, the bogus bomb threats undermine the City's serious efforts to preserve peace and order, and protect the QCitizens from the needless anxiety it brings;

WHEREAS, the recent increase in bomb threat in schools and other areas of concerns disrupts the peaceful conduct of various activities and in turn, results in varying degree of damaging effects to the life and property of those affected;

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WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 covers the different stages involving children at risk and children in conflict with the law from prevention to rehabilitation and reintegration. It recognizes the right of every child alleged as, accused of, adjudged, or recognized of having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, taking into account the child's age and desirability of promoting his/her reintegration. Whenever appropriate and desirable, the State shall adopt measures for dealing with such children without resorting to judicial proceedings, providing that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected.

## NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. - This Ordinance shall be known as the "Anti-Bomb Scare Ordinance of Quezon City".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It shall be the policy of the City to protect the public from the dissemination of false information on bomb threats, explosives, or any life-threatening or destructive materials which could cause disruption of services, as well as damaging effects to life and property.

SECTION 3. COVERAGE. - All one hundred forty-two (142) barangays within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. - For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall be defined:

- a. **Bomb** refers to a container filled with explosive, incendiary material, smoke, gas, or other destructive substance, designed to explode. It can appear obvious or concealed and can vary in size, shape or sophistication and may not necessarily explode, such as in the case of incendiary and dirty bombs. It may be referred to as Improvised Explosives Device (IED);
- b. **Explosive** refers to any material that causes a sudden, almost instantaneous, release of gas, heat, and pressure, accompanied by a loud noise when subjected to a certain amount of shock pressure, or temperature;
- Incendiary Device refers to a weapon designed to start fires or destroy sensitive equipment using fire, that uses materials such as napalm, thermite, magnesium poser, chlorine trifluoride, or white phosphorus;

- d. Life-threatening or Destructive Material refers to any matter or substance that is capable of causing death, including an explosive; incendiary device; poison gas; mine; grenade; a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces; a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce; any type of weapon, other than a shotgun or shotgun shell, by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; or any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device described above and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; and
- e. Areas of Concern refer to those areas which are regularly populated with people including public spaces, such as seaports, airports, malls, markets, hotels, or where people are gathered for an event or those areas which are subject to high-risk upon violation of this Ordinance, because of the magnitude of the resulting consequences, such as possible losses in productivity, resources, and religious value, notwithstanding the number of people present therein, including, but not limited to educational institutions (schools, colleges, universities), offices, government institutions, hospitals, churches, and other places of worship.

SECTION 5. PROHIBITION. - Any person who, by word of mouth or through the use of the mail, electronic mail, telephone, cellular phone, fax machine, telegraph, printed materials, social media, and other instrument or means of communication, makes any threat or conveys, communicates, transmits, imparts, passes on, or otherwise disseminates false information, knowing the same to be false, concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made to kill, injure, or intimidate any individual or group or to unlawfully damage or destroy any building, vehicle, or other real or personal property, by means of explosives, incendiary devices, and other destructive forces of similar nature or characteristics, shall be penalized as prescribed in Section 6 hereof.

SECTION 6. PENALTIES. - Without prejudice to other liabilities under Presidential Decree No. 1727, the Revised Penal Code and other related special laws, the following fines and penalties shall be imposed on a person who commits the acts prohibited or penalized under this Ordinance, as follows:



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- (a) Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be subject to imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the offense herein defined and penalized.
- (b) If the violation of this Ordinance is directed at Areas of Concerns, and causes the evacuation of a dwelling, building, place of assembly, facility, including public transportation and other common carriers, or the stoppage, cancellation or disruption of any kind of service to the public; or results to death or deaths in relation to the chaos created herein, or losses in productivity and resources, the penalty shall be imprisonment of not more than one (1) year or a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00) computed on the basis of each of those affected, or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the offense herein defined and penalized.
- (c) If the violation of this Ordinance is committed by a minor who is 15 years old or lower, or above 15 years old but not below 18 years old, who acted without discernment, he/she shall be referred to the Molave Youth Home, a "Bahay Pag-Asa", rehabilitation center, or other appropriate accredited facilities by the Social Services Development Department or the Department of Social Welfare and Development to undergo intervention programs.

However, if it is committed by a minor who is above 15 years old but below 18 years old, and is found to have acted with discernment, he/she shall undergo diversion proceedings and participate in a diversion program.

The foregoing penalties shall be imposed without prejudice to other liabilities under the Revised Penal Code or any special law, arising out of, or on occasion of the prohibited act.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE. - Other ordinances, local issuances, or rules inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If for any reason, any provision of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full legal force and effect.

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SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after its posting in conspicuous places in Quezon City for a minimum period of three (3) consecutive weeks and its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

ENACTED: February 27, 2023.

GIAN G. SOTTO City Vice Mayor Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III City Government Dept. Head III

APPROVED: <u>MAY 1 9 2023</u>

MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE City Mayor

## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on February 27, 2023 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on March 6, 2023.

ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III City Government Dept. Head III