



Republic of the Philippines  
**QUEZON CITY COUNCIL**  
Quezon City  
21<sup>st</sup> City Council

PR21CC-805

49<sup>th</sup> Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. SP- **8375**, S-2020

A RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTIONS 9 AND 20 AND PARAGRAPHS (C) AND (E) OF SECTION 26 OF RESOLUTION NO. SP-7934, S-2019, ENTITLED "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE INTERNAL RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CITY COUNCIL" TO ALLOW THE CONDUCT OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND COMMITTEE HEARINGS THROUGH VIDEO AND TELECONFERENCE, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS.

Introduced by Councilors LENA MARIE P. JUICO, FRANZ S. PUMAREN and ERIC Z. MEDINA.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Nicole Ella V. Crisologo, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, Eden Delilah "Candy" A. Medina, Ramon P. Medalla, Mikey F. Belmonte, Estrella C. Valmocina, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Matias John T. Defensor, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Jorge L. Banal, Sr., Peachy V. De Leon, Imee A. Rillo, Irene R. Belmonte, Resty B. Malañgen, Ivy L. Lagman, Hero M. Bautista, Jose A. Visaya, Karl Castelo, Patrick Michael Vargas, Shaira L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Allan Butch T. Francisco, Marivic Co Pilar, Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Diorella Maria G. Sotto-Antonio, Donato "Donny" C. Matias, Freddy S. Roxas and Noe Dela Fuente.

WHEREAS, on 8 March 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and enjoining all government agencies and local government units to render full assistance and cooperation, and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate response and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the COVID-19 threat;

WHEREAS, on 13 March 2020, the Quezon City Council, adopted Resolution No. SP-8141, Series of 2020, which declared Quezon City under a State of Calamity due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

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WHEREAS, on 16 March 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 929 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines and imposed Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) throughout Luzon;

WHEREAS, the imposition of the ECQ and other forms of community quarantine led to social distancing measures, including prohibiting and/or limiting mass gatherings and business transactions and suspending public transportation;

WHEREAS, these social distancing measures and other public health guidelines should not prevent the 21<sup>st</sup> City Council from exercising its mandate to enact local legislations necessary for the City to respond to this national emergency while ensuring the safety and well-being of its members and constituents;

WHEREAS, Section 47 of the Internal Rules of Procedure of the 21<sup>st</sup> City Council provides that the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government assisted by the Secretary to the Sanggunian shall conduct a continuing study, review and evaluation of the existing Rules of the Sangguniang Panlungsod and prepare an updated set of rules which shall be attuned with the needs of the Sangguniang Panlungsod;

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend and update the Internal Rules of Procedure of the 21<sup>st</sup> City Council in order to adopt the use of video and teleconferencing applications and other appropriate information and communication technology systems in the conduct of plenary sessions and committee hearings as part of the government response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, to amend and update, as it does hereby amend and update, Section 9 of Resolution No. SP-7934, S-2019, to include a new paragraph between its first and second paragraphs to be read as follows:

"The committee may opt to conduct meetings or hearings through video or teleconference, or other appropriate information and communications technology systems in case of force majeure or occurrence of an emergency, as determined by the Chairperson of the committee, which may prevent its members from physically attending the committee meetings and hearing."

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RESOLVED FURTHER, that a new paragraph be included between the second and third paragraphs of Section 20, to be read as follows:

*"In the event of a force majeure or the occurrence of a national or local emergency which may prevent the physical attendance of the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, the regular or special session may be held through the use of video or teleconference, or other appropriate information and communications technology systems, in order to accommodate the members who are unable to physically attend by reasons of serious risk to their health and safety. However, the physical presence of the officers of the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall be highly encouraged except when it is determined that such physical attendance may result to serious injury to health and safety of the said officer/s."*

RESOLVED FURTHER, that paragraph (c) of Section 26 shall be amended as follows:

*"For purpose of obtaining the floor, a member shall rise or raise his/her hand and address the Presiding Officer, "Honorable Presiding Officer" or "Honorable Chairperson." A member can do so only after the member who has the floor yields the same. If a member who wishes to speak is attending through video or teleconference means or other appropriate information and communication technology systems, said member shall raise his/her hand in such a manner that it will be visible to the Presiding Officer and other members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod."*

RESOLVED FURTHERMORE, that paragraph (e) of Section 26 shall be amended as follows:

*"When two (2) or more members rise or raise their hands at the same time, the member whose name is called first by the Presiding Officer is recognized and shall be entitled to the floor. The Presiding Officer may simultaneously recognize the members who wishes to speak in order to provide for the order entitlement to the floor."*

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49<sup>th</sup> Regular Session

Res. No. SP- **8375**, S-2020  
Page -4- PR21CC-805

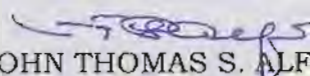
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RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall make the necessary adjustments to ensure that the integrity of the plenary sessions and committee hearings shall be protected, and its proper archiving and electronic recording shall be secured as part of the records of the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

ADOPTED: December 1, 2020.

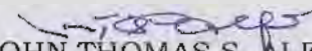
  
GIAN G. SOTTO  
City Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

  
Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III  
City Government Dept. Head III

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Resolution was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on December 1, 2020 and was CONFIRMED on December 7, 2020.

  
Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III  
City Government Dept. Head III

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