

Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL

Quezon City
21st City Council

PR21CC-516

51st Regular Session

RESOLUTION NO. SP- **8439**, S-2020

A RESOLUTION ENTREATING THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO REVISIT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER NO. 18-03-16-SC AND ITS IMPLICATION ON ILLEGAL DRUG-RELATED CASES.

Introduced by Councilors ALLAN BUTCH T. FRANCISCO and MARRA C. SUNTAY.

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, Franz S. Pumaren, 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, Patrick Michael Vargas, Shaira L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Marivic Co Pilar, Melencio "Bobby" T. Castelo, Jr., Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Diorella Maria G. Sotto-Antonio, Donato "Donny" C. Matias, Eric Z. Medina, Freddy S. Roxas and Noe Dela Fuente.

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2018, the Supreme Court En banc deliberated and discussed Administrative Matter No. 18-03-16-SC regarding the Suggested Plea Bargaining Framework submitted by the Philippine Judges Association;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2018, a revised plea bargaining framework which is more simplified, incorporated therein the suggestions of the members of the Court En banc to make clearer the non-applicability of plea bargaining in cases where the penalty of life imprisonment to death is imposed;

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WHEREAS, in Quezon City, there were more or less seven hundred seventy-six (776) drug offenders who were given a respite in jail through the plea bargaining agreement;

WHEREAS, the District Investigation and Detective Management Division, Quezon City Police District, the division tasked to look into the dismissed drug-related cases, and the Quezon City Anti-Drug Abuse Advisory Council (QCADAAC) found out that there were certain drug offenders who have availed of the plea bargaining in two (2) or more drug-related cases from different Regional Trial Courts;

WHEREAS, the primary responsibility of the State is to maintain law and order so that citizens can enjoy peace and security. The State discharges the obligation to protect life and liberty of the citizens by taking suitable preventive and punitive measures by following fair trial and if found guilty, to punish the offender;

WHEREAS, there are undeniably benefits of plea bargaining, it reduces costs, brings cases to a speedy conclusion, reduces the backlog of cases, helps to bring those guilty of crimes to justice and decongest the over-populated jails. However, despite these benefits, the elephant in the room still remains. The thrust of the present administration is to curtail drug addiction in the country, in as much as the local government of Quezon City and with the said findings of local authorities, where drug suspects/pushers continued their trade by virtue of the plea bargain, preventive actions and perseverance will be left inutile. We trust in a system which protects the innocent and punishes the guilty.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED, to entreat, as it does hereby entreats, the Supreme Court of the Philippines to revisit Administrative Matter No. 18-03-16-SC and its implication on illegal drug-related cases.

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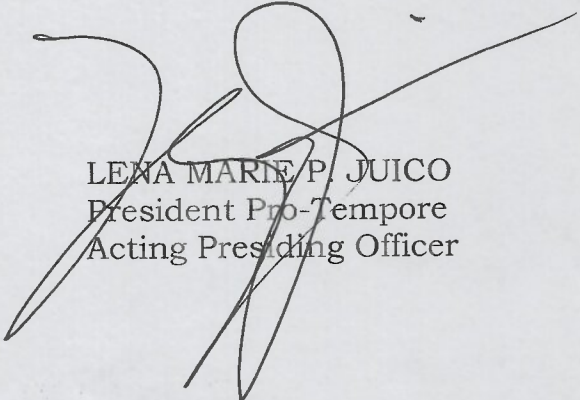
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RESOLVED FURTHER, to present a copy of this Resolution to the Honorable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines for his information and appropriate action.

ADOPTED: December 14, 2020.



LENA MARIE P. JUICO
President Pro-Tempore
Acting 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 14, 2020 and was CONFIRMED under Suspended Rules on the same date.



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

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