



Republic of the Philippines
BATANGAS CITY

Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Tel. No. 722-0304

ORDINANCE NO. 5 S. 2020

PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH WORKERS AND OTHER FRONTLINE WORKERS, PATIENTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM DISCRIMINATION, SOCIAL STIGMATIZATION, AND PUBLIC SHAMING, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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WHEREAS, Article II, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution states that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that every local government unit shall ensure and support promote health and safety of the people, improve public morals, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, health workers and other frontline workers of Batangas City have remained steadfast in performing their duties to care for the sick and provide communities vital services they need during this time of extraordinary health crisis;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 patients and their families, including the health workers and frontline workers who had contact with them, commonly bear the stigma of being carriers of a contagious disease and as such, are usually publicly shamed and discriminated upon;

WHEREAS, stigmatization, public shaming and social discrimination, are vile and morally abhorrent ways of treating the survivors of contagion and an unacceptable manner of reciprocating the sacrifices health workers and frontline workers give to alleviate the suffering of the people;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. – This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the “Anti-Discrimination Ordinance of Batangas City”.



Continuation of Ordinance No. 5 S. 2020

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SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS. – Whenever used in this ordinance, terms shall be construed to have the following meaning:

- a. **Contagious diseases** shall mean diseases such as flu, colds, or strep throat, or any similar health condition that may spread from person to person through direct physical contact, like touching or kissing a person who has the infection, or when an infectious microbe travels through the air after someone nearby sneezes or coughs.
- b. **Discrimination** shall mean any act where a person is subjected to an unjust or prejudicial treatment or treated less favorably by reason of his having been afflicted, or having had contact with a person afflicted, with a contagious disease.

SECTION 4. PROHIBITED ACTS. – The following acts are declared prohibited under this Ordinance:

- a. Any act that causes stigma, disgrace, shame, or humiliation against health workers, frontline workers, or persons who provided care or assistance to persons suffering from contagious disease;
- b. Any act that causes stigma, disgrace, shame, or humiliation against any patient, person under investigation or monitoring for suspected infection with a contagious disease, including that of his family or home caregivers;
- c. Any act of harassment, whether physical, verbal, or mental, towards health workers, frontline workers, patients, persons under investigation or monitoring for suspected infection with a contagious disease, including that of their families or home caregivers, or any persons who provided care or assistance to such patients;
- d. Dissemination to public, regardless of medium, any information concerning the identity or circumstances of patients, persons under investigation or monitoring for suspected infection with contagious disease, including that of their families or home caregivers, or any persons who provided care or assistance to such patients
- e. Refusal by a public officer or employee to give assistance to patients, persons under investigation or monitoring for suspected infection with contagious disease, including that of their families or home caregivers, or any persons who provided care or assistance to such patients;
- f. Any other form of discrimination analogous to the foregoing.

SECTION 5. PENALTY. - Any person found committing any of the prohibited acts stated under Section 5 of this Ordinance shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not more



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than six (6) months or fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or both in the discretion of the Court.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The City Mayor may issue rules and regulations to effectively implement this Ordinance.

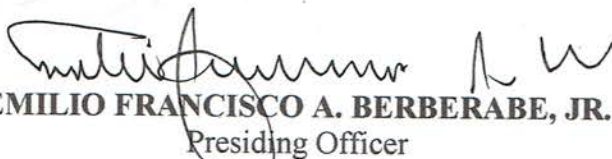
SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – Should any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All ordinances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY. – This Ordinance shall take effect after completion of posting thereof in conspicuous places in Batangas City.

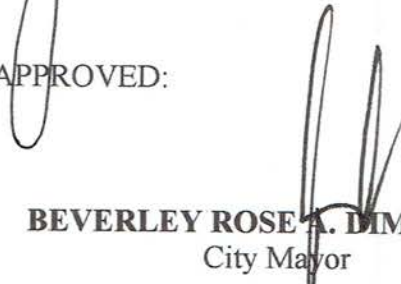
ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod this 7th day of April, 2020.

ATTESTED:


EMILIO FRANCISCO A. BERBERABE, JR.
Presiding Officer


ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS
Secretary
Sangguniang Panlungsod

APPROVED:


BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA
City Mayor

Date Approved: APR 08 2020