



Republic of the Philippines  
**QUEZON CITY**  
 3<sup>RD</sup> City Council

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PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, S-2025

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE QUEZON CITY LGBTQIA+ BUSINESS COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FOR ITS COMPOSITION AND FUNDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**INTRODUCED BY: COUNCILOR ATTY. VICENTE BELMONTE JR.**

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;

**WHEREAS**, Quezon City recognizes the inherent dignity and equal rights of all its constituents, including members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and other diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions (LGBTQIA+) community;

**WHEREAS**, the LGBTQIA+ community significantly contributes to the economic development of Quezon City through entrepreneurship, employment, and consumption, yet often faces unique challenges, discrimination, and barriers to economic opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to foster an inclusive economic environment that supports and empowers LGBTQIA+ entrepreneurs and businesses, ensuring their full participation and equitable access to resources and opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, the Quezon City Gender and Development (GAD) Council is mandated to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, and extending its mandate to include the economic empowerment of the LGBTQIA+ community aligns with its overarching goals of inclusivity and non-discrimination;

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of an LGBTQIA+ Business Council under the umbrella of the GAD Council will provide a dedicated platform for advocacy, networking, capacity building, and policy formulation aimed at addressing the specific economic needs and promoting the growth of LGBTQIA+ businesses within the city;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Quezon City, in regular session assembled, that:

#### **ARTICLE I**

#### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Ordinance shall be known as "**The Quezon City LGBTQIA+ Economic Empowerment Ordinance of 2025.**"

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of Quezon City to:

- a. **Promote and Protect Economic Rights:** Uphold, promote, and protect the fundamental economic rights and opportunities of all its citizens, ensuring equitable access to resources and services, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression (SOGIE)

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- b. **Foster Inclusive Business Environment:** Cultivate an inclusive, equitable, and non-discriminatory business environment where LGBTQIA+ individuals and enterprises can flourish, contribute meaningfully, and access opportunities without prejudice.
- c. **Recognize Valuable Contributions:** Officially recognize and celebrate the significant and diverse contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community to the local economy, fostering an atmosphere of appreciation and integration.
- d. **Provide Empowerment Mechanisms:** Establish robust and accessible mechanisms for the holistic economic empowerment of LGBTQIA+ individuals and groups through targeted capacity building, facilitated access to financial and market resources, and proactive policy advocacy.
- e. **Integrate Development Initiatives:** Seamlessly integrate LGBTQIA+ economic development initiatives within the broader framework of the city's Gender and Development (GAD) programs and plans, ensuring a cohesive and comprehensive approach to inclusive development.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.**

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a. **Quezon City LGBTQIA+ Business Council (QC-LBC)** – Refers to the body created by this Ordinance, tasked with promoting the economic empowerment of the LGBTQIA+ community in Quezon City.
- b. **LGBTQIA+** – Refers to individuals who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and other diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions.
- c. **LGBTQIA+ Businesses** – Refers to enterprises that are majority-owned, controlled, and operated by individuals identifying as LGBTQIA+, or businesses that demonstrate a strong commitment to LGBTQIA+ inclusivity in their policies and practices.
- d. **Gender and Development (GAD) Council** – Refers to the existing council in Quezon City responsible for mainstreaming gender perspective in local governance and development.
- e. **Economic Empowerment** – Refers to the process by which individuals or groups gain control over their economic lives, including access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power.
- f. **SOGIE** – Refers to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression.

**ARTICLE II**

**QUEZON CITY LGBTQIA+ BUSINESS COUNCIL**

**SECTION 4. Creation of the Quezon City LGBTQIA+ Business Council (QC-LBC).**

There is hereby created the Quezon City LGBTQIA+ Business Council, hereinafter referred to as the "Council," which shall operate as a specialized body under the direct supervision and coordination of the Quezon City Gender and Development (GAD) Council.



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**SECTION 5. Composition.**

The Council shall be composed of the following members:

**Chairperson:** The City Mayor of Quezon City.

**Vice-Chairperson:** The Head of the Quezon City Gender and Development (GAD) Council.

**Members:**

- a. One (1) representative from the Quezon City Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Office (LEDIPO).
- b. One (1) representative from the Quezon City Public Employment Service Office (PESO).
- c. One (1) representative from the Quezon City Social Services Development Department (SSDD).
- d. One (1) representative from the Quezon City Tourism Department.
- e. Three (3) representatives from accredited LGBTQIA+ business associations or organizations operating in Quezon City, to be chosen through a transparent selection process.
- f. Two (2) representatives from the academe or non-government organizations with expertise in SOGIE, economic development, or entrepreneurship.
- g. One (1) representative from the Sangguniang Panlungsod, preferably the Chairperson of the Committee on Women, Children, and Family Relations, or a related committee.

**SECTION 6. Term of Office.** The representatives from LGBTQIA+ business associations/organizations and academe/NGOs shall serve for a fixed term of three (3) years, commencing from the date of their appointment, without prejudice to reappointment for subsequent terms, provided they continue to meet the prescribed qualifications and actively participate in the Council's functions. Other members shall serve *ex-officio*, concurrent with their respective official positions.

**SECTION 7. Powers and Functions.** The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

**a. Policy Advocacy and Legislative Measures:** Proactively recommend to the Sangguniang Panlungsod and the City Mayor the formulation, adoption, and amendment of policies, programs, and legislative measures that effectively promote the economic empowerment of the LGBTQIA+ community and systematically address all identified barriers to their full and equitable participation in the local economy.

**b. Comprehensive Business Development and Support Services:**

- i. **Business Facilitation:** Streamline and facilitate the process of business registration, securing necessary permits, and obtaining licenses for LGBTQIA+ businesses, ensuring a supportive and efficient regulatory environment.
- ii. **Capacity Building:** Design, organize, and conduct targeted entrepreneurship training programs, skills development workshops, and structured mentorship programs specifically tailored to enhance the business acumen, technical skills, and market readiness of LGBTQIA+ entrepreneurs.

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iii. **Financial Linkages:** Establish and strengthen linkages between LGBTQIA+ businesses and reputable financial institutions, microfinance providers, government lending programs, and other relevant funding sources to improve access to capital and credit.

iv. **Market Access and Promotion:** Actively promote and facilitate enhanced market access for LGBTQIA+ products and services through the organization of dedicated trade fairs, local bazaars, online e-commerce platforms, and other innovative marketing initiatives.

**c. Strategic Networking and Partnership Building:**

i. **Network Establishment:** Develop and maintain a dynamic network of LGBTQIA+ businesses, professionals, community leaders, and allies within Quezon City to foster collaboration and mutual support.

ii. **Multi-Sectoral Partnerships:** Forge strategic and sustainable partnerships with relevant government agencies, private sector entities, academic institutions, and civil society organizations to collectively create and expand economic opportunities for the LGBTQIA+ community.

iii. **Forums and Events:** Organize regular forums, conferences, business matching events, and networking sessions to facilitate knowledge sharing, foster collaboration, and highlight best practices in LGBTQIA+ economic inclusion.

**d. Research, Data Collection, and Impact Assessment:** Initiate, conduct, or commission rigorous studies and systematically gather disaggregated data on the economic status, challenges, contributions, and specific needs of the LGBTQIA+ community in Quezon City. This data shall serve as a crucial evidence base to inform policy development, program design, and impact assessment.

**e. Monitoring and Evaluation of Programs:** Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to regularly track the implementation progress and assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of all programs and policies aimed at LGBTQIA+ economic empowerment, ensuring accountability and continuous improvement.

**f. Information Dissemination and Resource Hub:** Serve as the primary central hub for comprehensive and accessible information on economic opportunities, available resources, best practices, and relevant policies pertinent to LGBTQIA+ businesses and professionals within the city.

**g. Certification and Recognition Program:** Develop and implement a transparent system for officially recognizing and certifying LGBTQIA+-owned businesses or businesses that demonstrate exemplary commitment to LGBTQIA+-friendly policies and practices, subject to the establishment of clear and objective guidelines and criteria.

**h. Conflict Resolution and Anti-Discrimination:** Provide an accessible and impartial mechanism for receiving, investigating, and addressing complaints of economic discrimination or unfair practices against LGBTQIA+ individuals or businesses. In close coordination with relevant city offices and legal aid services.

**SECTION 8. Relationship with the GAD Council.** The Council shall operate under the direct supervision, strategic guidance, and administrative coordination of the Quezon City GAD Council. It shall submit comprehensive regular reports to the GAD Council on its activities, programs, financial utilization, and progress towards its objectives. The GAD Council shall provide overall strategic direction, ensure the seamless integration of the



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Council's initiatives into the city's broader GAD agenda and plans, and facilitate inter-departmental cooperation.

**SECTION 9. Meetings.** The Council shall convene for regular meetings at least once every quarter, or as often as deemed necessary, upon the official call of the Chairperson or upon the written request of a majority of its members. Due notice shall be provided to all members.

**SECTION 10. Secretariat.** The Quezon City Gender and Development Office (QC GAD) shall serve as the Secretariat of the Council. The Secretariat shall provide administrative, technical, and logistical support to the Council in the performance of its functions.

**SECTION 11. Appropriation.** The initial funding for the establishment and operationalization of the Council shall be sourced from the existing Gender and Development (GAD) budget of Quezon City, subject to the approval of the City Mayor. Subsequent and continuing funding requirements shall be meticulously included in the annual GAD Plan and Budget of the city, ensuring sustainability and predictability, and shall be subject to the availability of funds and strict adherence to existing government auditing rules and regulations.

**SECTION 12. Reporting.** The Council, through its Secretariat, shall submit an annual report to the City Mayor and the Sangguniang Panlungsod, detailing its accomplishments, challenges, financial expenditures, and recommendations for future programs and policies.

**SECTION 13. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 14. Repealing Clause.** All ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 15. Effectivity.** This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City and posting in at least three (3) conspicuous public places within the city.

ENACTED, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, in Quezon City.

Submitted by:



**HON. ATTY. VICENTE BELMONTE JR.**  
City Councilor, 4<sup>th</sup> District