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Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
23rd CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. SP - _____, S -2025

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING FOOD RESCUE MECHANISMS AND STRATEGIES IN ORDER TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY IN QUEZON CITY, PROVIDING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by: COUN. MARIA ELEANOR "DOC ELLIE" R. JUAN, O.D.

WHEREAS, Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall 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, Section 15, Article II of the Constitution likewise provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the same Constitution provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost;

WHEREAS, it is a policy of the State to safeguard food security, end hunger, and promote the efficient use of the country's food resources;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Member States 2030 adopted the Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, which provides for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership;

WHEREAS, the Goal #2 of the 17 SDGs aims at ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture, in order to address its projection that more than 600 million people worldwide might face hunger in 2030;

WHEREAS, the right to food is recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and is enshrined in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the Philippines is one of the state signatories;

WHEREAS, according to the Food Consumption Survey recently conducted by the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI), 1,717 metric tons of food are wasted every day in the Philippines. Its recent study entitled, "*Does plate waste matter: A two-stage cluster survey to assess the household plate waste in the Philippines.*", showed that 39%

of Filipino families had rice waste, 11% had vegetable waste, and 8% had meat waste;

WHEREAS, according to the results of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey released in January 2023, about 11.8 percent of Filipino families, or an estimated three million households, experienced hunger in the fourth quarter of 2022. The Philippines likewise ranked 69 of 119 countries with a serious level of hunger incidence by the Global Hunger Index of 2018;

WHEREAS, food wastages generate not only economic concerns but also environmental concerns given its contribution to increased greenhouse gases, deforestation, among others;

WHEREAS, the top three food wasted – rice, vegetables and meat – can become real meals for the hungry. Hence, there is an urgent necessity to adopt integrated and innovative approaches and solutions designed to reduce food waste and address food insecurity in our country;

WHEREAS, food donations have proved to helped many community pantries and food banks and benefited thousands of people in our country who are suffering from food insecurity;

WHEREAS, food recycling is one of the sustainable practices which effectively cleans the waste stream by removing decomposing food from being dumped into landfills;

WHEREAS, in a recent press statement, Quezon City Mayor Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte stated that food waste constitutes 43 percent of the total waste generated in the city. Hence, there is an imperative need to establish a robust and effective food waste recovery program;

WHEREAS, the Quezon City Government also believes in working with key partners and stakeholders to further its objectives in achieving food security and lessen food wastages in the city;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. TITLE - This Ordinance shall be known as the “**QUEZON CITY FOOD RESCUE ORDINANCE**”.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY - The Quezon City Government recognizes that each person has a right to an adequate standard of living, including sufficient food. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to safeguard food security, end hunger, and promote the efficient use of the city's food resources. Towards this end, the Quezon City Government shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and ensure the reduction of food waste through food rescue mechanisms such as food donation, redistribution, and recycling.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. - As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

a. *Food insecure* - persons or groups who have difficulty producing or purchasing food to avoid hunger.

b. *Edible food waste* - refers to food appropriate for human consumption being discarded, whether or not after it is kept beyond its expiry date or left to spoil, in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the national and local authorities.

c. *Food waste reduction*- the decrease of food waste generation, the redistribution of food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food as fertilizer or compost.

d. *Food-related business* - public and private businesses involved in the manufacturing and processing of food products (i.e. food manufacturers), private businesses involved the wholesaling and retailing of food products (i.e. supermarkets), and private businesses involved in serving food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels).

e. *Food banks* - non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven organizations that distribute food to the food insecure;

f. *Food redistribution* – an activity whereby edible food surplus that might otherwise be wasted is recovered, collected and provided/distributed to people, in particular to those who are food insecure.

g. *Food waste recycling* – an activity whereby inedible food waste is collected and recycled as fertilizer, compost, or animal feed through various methods.

h. *Inedible food waste* - food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council.

i. *Waste management and recycling enterprises* - organizations that manage inedible food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

j. *Waste segregation-at-source* - refer to a solid waste management practice of separating, at the point of origin, different materials found in solid waste in order to promote recycling and re-use of resources and to reduce the volume of waste for collection and disposal

SECTION 4. SCOPE AND COVERAGE – All individual households, homeowners associations, neighborhood groups, PO's, NGO's, barangays, and food-related businesses operating within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City shall be required to promote food waste reduction by strictly observing waste segregation at source and are hereby encouraged to practice and initiate efforts on food redistribution and food recycling in order to promote food security in our city.

SECTION 5. FOOD REDISTRIBUTION AND RECYCLING AS FOOD RESCUE MECHANISMS. By virtue of this Ordinance, the Quezon City

Government hereby institutionalizes the practice of collection, sorting, donation of edible and recycling of non-edible food for purposes of food redistribution and food recycling as food rescue mechanisms in order to reduce food waste generation and lessen its negative environmental impacts.

SECTION 6. HOUSEHOLDS/ HOA's/ PO's/ NGOs/ BARANGAYS WASTE REDUCTION STRATEGY. – By virtue of this Ordinance, all individual households, homeowners' associations, neighborhood groups, PO's, and NGOs shall:

a. Observe strict compliance with the segregation-at-source policies of the QC-LGU and the barangay; and

b. Initiate efforts and/or actively participate in various programs, activities, and campaigns promoting food waste reduction initiated by the National Government, QC-LGU, and the barangay.

The Barangays are hereby required to:

a. Enjoin strict compliance of all residents and business establishments with the segregation-at-source policies of QC-LGU;

b. Develop an annual barangay food waste reduction plan;

c. Formulate and implement policies and programs promoting the practice of food redistribution and food recycling;

d. Submit a regular report to CCESD and QC-FSTF that contains data on the amount (in tons) of edible and non-edible food surplus collected, donated, and recycled.

The homeowners' associations, neighborhood groups, PO's, and NGOs, and barangays may forge partnerships and enter into contracts with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or compost and/or food rescuers or food bank operators accredited by the Quezon City Government to collect edible food surplus, whenever practicable. *Provided that*, the necessary coordination with the QC-FSTF, CCESD, and DSQC shall be made prior to the actual execution of collection, sorting, and distribution of food surplus activities.

SECTION 7. WASTE REDUCTION STRATEGY FOR THE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS. – All business establishments especially Food-related businesses such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels are hereby required to:

a. Observe strict compliance with the segregation-at-source policies of the QC-LGU and the barangay;

b. Initiate efforts and/or actively participate in various programs, activities, and campaigns promoting food waste reduction initiated by the National Government, QC-LGU, and the barangay;

c. Submit to the QCNC and QC-FSTF an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of its edible food surplus and inedible food waste in the immediately preceding year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting or discarding;

d. Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food surplus to the food insecure. *Provided* that, the necessary coordination with the QC-FSTF, CCESD, and DSQC shall be made prior to the actual execution of collection, sorting, and distribution of food surplus activities.

e. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost. *Provided* that, the necessary coordination with the QC-FSTF, CCESD, and DSQC shall be made prior to the actual execution of collection, sorting, and distribution of food surplus activities.

f. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the CCESD; and

g. Submit to the QCNC and QC-FSTF a regular report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of its edible food surplus and inedible food waste in the immediately preceding year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting or discarding,

SECTION 8. MANDATORY FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM. – All food-related establishments, within five (5) years of implementation of this ordinance, shall establish a Mandatory Food Rescue Program, through the assistance of the QC FSTF, QCNC, SSDD, BPLD, and SBCDPO.

SECTION 9. PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY. - To encourage donations and protect the food surplus donors from possible abuses, the liability of food donors (i.e. owners of the food-related businesses, HOAs, NGOs, POs, and the barangays) is limited only to such time that they are in physical possession of the food surplus. Once food surplus has been collected by an accredited food rescuer or waste management and recycling enterprise and a donation has been made to the accredited food banks and/or to farms, the food surplus donors shall be exempt from any liability and/or injury arising therefrom.

SECTION 10. BAN ON FOOD WASTE IN GARBAGE COLLECTION. – The DSQC and the CCESD shall, within two (2) years of implementation of this ordinance, prohibit the collection of Food Waste in their regular waste collection. The QCU-LGU, through the DSQC and CCESD, and the barangays shall ensure proper and adequate information dissemination on such ban among all households and covered establishments prior to implementation.

The barangays and homeowners associations may enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises, NGOs, POs and CSOs, such as, but not limited to, QC-registered urban farmer organizations, to recycle inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or compost.

For purposes of this Ordinance, accredited food-bank-partners and food rescuers shall be authorized to collect domestic edible and non-edible food surplus, in conformity with Section 4(I), Chapter IV of Ordinance No. SP-2350, S-2014.

SECTION 11. CREATION OF THE FOOD RESCUE AND FOOD WASTE REGISTRY. – The City, through the Quezon City Food Security Task Force (QC FSTF), in coordination with the QCNC, DSQC, CCESD, BCRD, Quezon City Information Technology Development Department (ITDD), the Liga ng mga

Barangay, the Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan, shall endeavor to establish a City Food Rescue and Food Waste Registry which shall include but not limited to the records of collection and distribution of food surplus and food waste by the city.

SECTION 12. DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FOOD WASTE REDUCTION ACTION PLAN. The Quezon City Government, through the QCND, CCESD, and FSTF shall develop and adopt an annual Local Action Plan on food waste reduction, setting forth its targets and goals, impacts, and measurement of its progress.

SECTION 13. BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES. – The Quezon City Government shall endeavor to provide the following benefits and incentives to Food-related Businesses as well as other Business Establishments, who shall promote, donate, assist, participate in the food rescue and zero food waste reduction programs of the City:

- a. Grants for research and development, training and expansion projects as may be proposed by the QC FSTF, BPLD, SBCDPO, and Local Economic Investments and Promotions Office (LEIPO);
- b. Assistance, in form of training and development and/or professional services to qualified food-related businesses as determined by the QC FSTF;
- c. Conduct learning sessions, seminars and workshops on Food Rescue and Food Waste Reduction and Management, and other related topics as initiated by the Quezon City Government.

Quezon City Government may provide additional non-monetary and non-tax incentives such as, but not limited to, inclusion in the QC Website or other partners' website, temporary access to office space and equipment, provision of consultants, among others.

Quezon City Government shall also provide additional tax, non-monetary and non-tax incentives to non-food establishments that would assist in the collection of inedible food wastes, such as, but not limited to, urban farming groups, organizations and/or business which are into organic composting and fertilizer-making.

SECTION 13. MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND PERIODIC REVIEW. – The QCNC and the QC FSTF shall submit an annual report to City Mayor, the Local Health Board, and the Quezon City Council on the progress in the implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 14. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – All provisions of this Ordinance which are self-executory in nature, shall be immediately implemented.

All relevant offices, agencies, and/or departments, through the assistance of the QCNC, in coordination with the QC FSTF, may promulgate additional and clarificatory guidelines, rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 15. AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS. – The City Mayor is hereby authorized to sign and enter into Agreements for and on behalf of the Quezon City, for the proper and immediate implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 16. APPROPRIATIONS. – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be taken from any available funds of the City.

SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full legal force and effect.

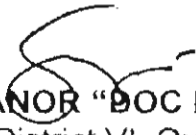
SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All ordinances, executive orders, rules and regulations and other similar issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, are hereby repealed, revoked or otherwise, modified accordingly.

SECTION 19. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval, and after due compliance with publication requirements.

ENACTED _____ 2025.

Enacted this _____. Quezon City.

Respectfully submitted by:


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 District VI, Quezon City