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FEB 23 2026

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Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
23rd Quezon City Council

Proposed Ordinance No. _____, S-2026

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE QUEZON CITY ANTI-HOARDING TASK FORCE, INSTITUTIONALIZING A COORDINATED LOCAL MECHANISM FOR THE MONITORING AND PREVENTION OF HOARDING, ARTIFICIAL SHORTAGES, AND OTHER ACTS OF MARKET MANIPULATION INVOLVING GOODS WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF QUEZON CITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by: **COUNCILOR BERNARD R. HERRERA**
and COUNCILOR ALY MEDALLA

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, mandates local government units to exercise powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental to the effective promotion of the general welfare of their inhabitants, including measures to protect consumers and ensure public welfare;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines, declares it a State policy to protect the interests of consumers, promote consumer welfare, and establish standards of conduct for business and industry consistent with fair trade principles;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7581, otherwise known as the Price Act, declares the policy of the State to ensure the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at reasonable prices and to provide effective and sufficient protection against hoarding, profiteering, and cartels;

WHEREAS, the Price Act expressly defines and penalizes hoarding and other acts of price manipulation, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations provide standards and enforcement mechanisms to address artificial shortages and related unlawful practices;

WHEREAS, acts of hoarding, artificial shortages, concealment of stocks, and other forms of market manipulation undermine fair competition, distort supply and pricing mechanisms, and adversely affect the public, particularly during periods of economic instability, emergencies, calamities, or supply disruptions;

WHEREAS, such practices may affect not only food and household goods, but also other goods critical to public welfare, including medicines, medical supplies, meat, and other regulated products, which are likewise subject to national regulatory frameworks such as Republic Act No. 9296 (Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines) and other public health and food safety laws;

- 103 c) **Covered Establishments** - All natural or juridical persons engaged in the
 104 manufacture, importation, distribution, storage, processing, wholesale,
 105 retail, or online sale of goods within Quezon City, including warehouses,
 106 cold storage facilities, markets, pharmacies, and similar commercial
 107 establishments.
- 108 d) **Declared Emergency** - A state of calamity, public health emergency, or
 109 other official declaration issued by competent authority affecting supply
 110 conditions, distribution, or pricing of goods.
- 111 e) **Goods** - All commodities, products, articles, or items of commerce offered
 112 for sale, storage, distribution, trade, or consumption within Quezon City,
 113 whether classified under national law as basic necessities, prime
 114 commodities, regulated products, or other merchandise.
- 115 f) **Hoarding** - The undue accumulation, withholding, concealment, or
 116 refusal to release goods beyond normal inventory levels for the purpose of
 117 manipulating supply, creating artificial shortages, or influencing market
 118 prices, consistent with applicable national laws, including Republic Act
 119 No. 7581 (Price Act), and its implementing rules and regulations.
- 120 g) **Inspection** - The lawful examination or verification of premises, records,
 121 inventories, and related documents by authorized personnel of the Task
 122 Force during reasonable business hours and in accordance with applicable
 123 laws.
- 124 h) **Inventory Report** - A written or electronic declaration submitted by a
 125 covered establishment indicating the quantity of goods on hand, incoming
 126 deliveries, outgoing distributions, and such other information as may be
 127 required under this Ordinance or its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
- 128 i) **Market Manipulation** - Any act or practice intended to distort fair
 129 competition, restrict supply, or influence the price or availability of goods
 130 in violation of applicable laws.
- 131 j) **Prime Commodities** - Goods not classified as basic necessities but
 132 essential to consumers, as defined under Republic Act No. 7581 and its
 133 implementing rules and regulations.
- 134 k) **Task Force** - The Quezon City Anti-Hoarding Task Force created under
 135 this Ordinance.
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137 **SECTION 4. CREATION AND COMPOSITION OF THE QUEZON CITY**
 138 **ANTI-HOARDING TASK FORCE.** There is hereby created the Quezon City Anti-
 139 Hoarding Task Force, hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force," which shall serve
 140 as the primary city-level coordinating body responsible for monitoring, preventing,
 141 and addressing acts of hoarding, artificial shortages, and related market
 142 manipulation within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City.
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144 The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

145 CHAIRPERSON: CITY MAYOR

146 CO-CHAIRPERSON: CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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 149
 150 SECRETARIAT: BUSINESS PERMITS AND LICENSING
 151 DEPARTMENT (BPLD)
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153 MEMBERS:

- 154 1. Barangay and Community Relations Department (BCRD)
 155 2. City Legal Department

- 156 3. Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS)
- 157 4. Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD)
- 158 5. Office of the City Veterinarian (OCV)
- 159 6. Public Affairs and Information Services Department (PAISD)
- 160 7. Quezon City Health Department (QCHD)
- 161 8. Quezon City Police District (QCPD)

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163 The City Mayor as the Chairperson of the Task Force may identify and invite
164 additional members, or coordinate with other city offices, national government
165 agencies, or regulatory bodies, as may be necessary in the performance of its
166 functions.

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168 **SECTION 5. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.** The Quezon City Anti-Hoarding
169 Task Force shall have the following powers and functions:

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171 a) **Market Monitoring.** To monitor the supply, distribution, storage, and
172 market behavior involving goods within Quezon City for the purpose of
173 detecting possible hoarding, artificial shortages, or related unlawful
174 practices;
- 175 b) **Inspection and Verification.** To conduct lawful inspections, validation
176 activities, and inventory verification of covered establishments during
177 reasonable business hours, consistent with applicable laws and ordinances;
- 178 c) **Submission of Reports and Documents.** To require covered
179 establishments, when reasonably warranted, to submit inventory reports,
180 stock declarations, delivery records, invoices, and other relevant
181 documents necessary to determine compliance with this Ordinance;
- 182 d) **Departmental Implementation.** To cause monitoring, inspection, and
183 verification activities to be undertaken by the appropriate member
184 departments of the Task Force, consistent with their respective mandates,
185 technical expertise, and regulatory authority;
- 186 e) **Complaint Handling.** To receive, evaluate, and act upon complaints or
187 reports from consumers, barangays, and other stakeholders regarding
188 suspected hoarding or artificial shortages;
- 189 f) **Administrative Recommendation.** To recommend appropriate
190 administrative actions, including business permit sanctions or other
191 regulatory measures, subject to due process;
- 192 g) **Referral and Coordination.** To coordinate with and refer cases to
193 appropriate national government agencies for investigation and
194 prosecution under applicable laws;
- 195 h) **Information and Compliance Initiatives.** To conduct public information,
196 advisory, and compliance initiatives promoting fair trade practices and
197 consumer protection;
- 198 i) **Reporting.** To submit periodic reports to the City Mayor and the City
199 Council on market conditions, enforcement activities, and policy
200 recommendations.

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202 All powers and functions under this Section shall be exercised in accordance
203 with due process, transparency, and applicable legal standards.

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205 **SECTION 6. MONITORING, INVENTORY REPORTING, AND**
206 **INSPECTION AUTHORITY.** In furtherance of the objectives of this Ordinance, the
207 Task Force, through its authorized personnel and member departments, shall
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- a) **Market Surveillance.** To conduct regular monitoring of supply conditions, distribution practices, and market behavior involving goods within Quezon City, particularly during periods of abnormal price fluctuations, supply disruptions, declared emergencies, or other circumstances affecting public welfare;
 - b) **Inventory Reporting Requirement.** To require covered establishments, when reasonably warranted by prevailing market conditions or upon receipt of verified complaints, to submit inventory reports, stock declarations, and related documentation indicating quantities on hand, incoming deliveries, and distribution records;
 - c) **Inspection of Premises.** To conduct inspections of business establishments, warehouses, storage facilities, markets, and other premises where goods are stored, processed, or distributed, during reasonable business hours and in accordance with applicable laws and ordinances;
 - d) **Verification of Records.** To examine invoices, delivery receipts, stock ledgers, and other commercial records reasonably necessary to determine compliance with this Ordinance;
 - e) **Implementation Through Member Departments.** To cause inspections, monitoring, and verification activities to be undertaken by the appropriate member departments of the Task Force, consistent with their respective mandates and regulatory authority;
 - f) **Coordination with Barangays.** To coordinate with barangay officials for localized monitoring and validation activities within their respective jurisdictions.

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All monitoring, reporting, and inspection activities shall be conducted in a lawful, transparent, and non-arbitrary manner, and shall strictly observe constitutional safeguards, due process requirements, and applicable regulatory procedures.

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SECTION 7. ROLE AND PARTICIPATION OF BARANGAYS. Barangays shall assist the Task Force in the localized monitoring and reporting of suspected hoarding, artificial shortages, and related market practices within their respective territorial jurisdictions.

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For this purpose, barangays may:

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- a) Receive complaints or reports from residents and immediately endorse the same to the Task Force for proper verification and action;
 - b) Coordinate with authorized representatives of the Task Force during inspection or validation activities conducted within their jurisdiction;
 - c) Disseminate public advisories and information materials issued by the Task Force relating to consumer protection and anti-hoarding measures;
 - d) Provide situational updates to the Task Force during periods of abnormal price movements, supply disruptions, or declared emergencies affecting the community.

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Barangays shall not exercise inspection, confiscatory, or enforcement powers under this Ordinance unless otherwise authorized by law. Their participation shall be limited to monitoring, reporting, and coordination functions in support of the Task Force.

262 **SECTION 8. PROHIBITED ACTS.** The following acts, when committed
 263 within the territorial jurisdiction of Quezon City, are hereby prohibited:

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- 265 a) **HOARDING.** The undue accumulation, withholding, concealment, or
 266 refusal to release goods beyond normal inventory levels for the purpose of
 267 manipulating supply, creating artificial shortages, or influencing market
 268 prices;
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- 270 b) **ARTIFICIAL SHORTAGE.** Deliberately restricting or delaying the
 271 distribution, release, or sale of goods to distort market availability or
 272 pricing;
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- 274 c) **CONCEALMENT OR MISREPRESENTATION OF STOCKS.** Providing
 275 false, misleading, or incomplete information regarding inventory levels,
 276 deliveries, or distribution records when required under this Ordinance;
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- 278 d) **OBSTRUCTION OF LAWFUL INSPECTION.** Refusing entry, access, or
 279 lawful verification by authorized personnel of the Task Force during
 280 reasonable business hours, or interfering with the conduct of monitoring
 281 or inspection activities;
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- 283 e) **FAILURE TO SUBMIT REQUIRED REPORTS.** Unjustified refusal or
 284 failure to submit inventory reports, stock declarations, or other
 285 documentation required under this Ordinance or its Implementing Rules
 286 and Regulations;
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- 288 f) **OTHER ACTS OF MARKET MANIPULATION.** Engaging in practices
 289 that are intended to distort fair competition, restrict supply, or manipulate
 290 prices in violation of applicable national laws and regulations.
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292 Nothing in this Section shall preclude the filing of appropriate charges under
 293 existing national laws, including Republic Act No. 7581 and other relevant statutes,
 294 where warranted.

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296 **SECTION 9. ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS AND BUSINESS PERMIT**
 297 **ACTIONS.** Without prejudice to the filing of appropriate charges under existing
 298 national laws, any covered establishment found, after due notice and hearing, to have
 299 committed any prohibited act under this Ordinance shall be subject to the following
 300 penalties:

- 301 a) **FIRST OFFENSE** - Fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos
 302 (P5,000.00);
- 303 b) **SECOND OFFENSE** - Fine not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos
 304 (P5,000.00) and/or suspension of the business permit or license for a
 305 period not exceeding thirty (30) days;
- 306 c) **THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES** - Fine not exceeding Five
 307 Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and/or suspension or revocation of the
 308 business permit or license, subject to applicable laws and ordinances.
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310 For purposes of this Section, each day that a violation continues after receipt
 311 of notice shall be considered a separate offense, subject to the maximum penalty
 312 prescribed under Section 458(a)(1)(iii) of Republic Act No. 7160.
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314 All administrative proceedings shall observe due process, including written
315 notice, opportunity to be heard, and issuance of a formal resolution.
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317 The imposition of penalties under this Ordinance shall not preclude referral
318 to appropriate national government agencies for investigation and prosecution under
319 existing laws.
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321 **SECTION 10. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION AND REFERRAL TO**
322 **NATIONAL AUTHORITIES.** The Task Force shall coordinate with appropriate
323 national government agencies and regulatory bodies in the enforcement of laws
324 relating to hoarding, price manipulation, consumer protection, public health, food
325 safety, and related matters.
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327 Where evidence gathered by the Task Force indicates possible violations of
328 national laws, including but not limited to Republic Act No. 7581 (Price Act),
329 Republic Act No. 7394 (Consumer Act of the Philippines), Republic Act No. 9296
330 (Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines), and other applicable statutes, the Task
331 Force shall endorse or refer the matter to the proper national authority for
332 investigation and prosecution.
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334 The Task Force may conduct joint monitoring, inspection, and enforcement
335 activities with national government agencies when necessary and lawful.
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337 Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to supplant, diminish, or
338 interfere with the powers of national agencies vested by law. The role of the City
339 Government under this Ordinance shall be supportive, complementary, and
340 consistent with applicable national regulatory frameworks.
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342 **SECTION 11. CONSUMER COMPLAINT AND REPORTING**
343 **MECHANISM.** The Task Force shall establish and maintain an accessible
344 mechanism for the receipt, documentation, and evaluation of complaints or reports
345 involving suspected hoarding, artificial shortages, or related prohibited acts under
346 this Ordinance.
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348 Complaints may be submitted through designated city offices, official
349 hotlines, electronic mail, online reporting platforms, or through barangays, and shall
350 be recorded and referred for appropriate verification.
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352 Upon receipt of a complaint, the Task Force shall conduct a preliminary
353 assessment to determine whether reasonable grounds exist to initiate monitoring,
354 inspection, or validation activities pursuant to this Ordinance.
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356 The identity of complainants may, upon request and when warranted, be
357 treated with confidentiality in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

358 The Task Force shall maintain proper records of complaints received, actions
359 taken, and outcomes thereof, and may include summaries of such data in its periodic
360 reports to the City Mayor and the City Council.
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362 Nothing in this Section shall prevent any person from directly filing
363 complaints before appropriate national government agencies or pursuing remedies
364 available under existing laws.
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