QUEZON CITY CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE ORDINANCE.

Introduced by Councilors JOSEPH PETER S. SISON and MOISES S. SAMSON.

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

ARTICLE 1

SECTION 1. TITLE. - This Ordinance shall be known as "The Quezon City Child and Youth Welfare Ordinance".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PRINCIPLES. - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the Quezon City government that the rights of children to their survival, protection, participation and development must be given high priority; it will work for the respect for the role of the family in providing for the needs of children and will support the efforts of parents, other child care and development workers, non-government organizations (NGO's) and communities in nurturing and caring for children, from infancy including the early stages of childhood to adolescence.

a) The Quezon City government shall exert its best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities towards the upbringing and development of the child. It shall render appropriate assistance to parents in child-raising.

b) The Quezon City government shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the care of the child and to establish appropriate social programs for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.
c) The Quezon City government is obliged to provide special protection for a child deprived of the family environment and to ensure that appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement is available in such cases. Efforts to meet this obligation shall pay due regard to the child’s cultural background.

d) The Quezon City government shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

e) It is the Quezon City government’s obligation to exert every effort against the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.

f) The Quezon City government has a duty to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child and to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity. School discipline shall be consistent with the child’s rights and dignity.

SECTION 3. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION. - In the interpretation of the provisions of this ordinance, all doubts shall be resolved in favor of and for the best interest of the child.

SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS:

a) CHILDREN refers to persons below eighteen (18) years of age or those over 18 years but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition;

b) SURVIVAL RIGHTS are those which relates to parental and governmental duties and liabilities, adequate living standard and access to basic health and health services and social security towards the interest and welfare of children.

c) DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS pertain to the access of a child to educational opportunities, access to relevant information, play, leisure, cultural activities and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

d) PROTECTION RIGHTS cover those which guard children against all forms of child abuse, exploitation and discrimination in the major areas where a child is considered in an extremely difficult circumstances.

e) PARTICIPATION RIGHTS include the child’s freedom to express oneself in matters affecting his/her life as part of preparation for responsible parenthood and to freedom of association.
f) ANTI-SOCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES are those acts committed against property, chastity and person which includes, but not limited to, the following: petty crimes, such as snatching, shoplifting, misrepresentation, using and pushing prohibited drugs, selling illegal or lewd reading materials; pimping for young and old prostitutes and sexual perversions, doing or participating in obscene shows and gambling of any form.

g) STREET CHILDREN. The following persons are considered street children:

(1) Those 12 years old and below who are found loitering within the streets of Quezon City;

(2) Those engaged in selling sampaguitas, cigarettes, newspapers, and any other products or commercial items in the City streets; or

(3) Those found begging, sniffing rugby and other solvent products, pickpocketing, and doing other illegal activities.

h) CHILDREN'S DESK is a position in police stations specifically manned by trained police officers in dealing with child cases.

i) COMMITMENT is the legal act of entrusting a child to the care of the Social Services Development Department or any duly licensed similar child placement agency or individual.

j) NEGLECTED CHILD is one whose basic needs have been deliberately unattended or inadequately attended.

(1) Emotional neglect exists when children are maltreated, raped or seduced; when children are exploited, overworked or made to work under conditions not conducive to good health, or are made to beg in the streets or public places.

(2) Physical neglect exists when the child is malnourished, ill clad and without proper shelter.

k) ABANDONED CHILD is one who has no proper parental care or guardianship, or whose parents or guardians have deserted him for a period of at least 6 months.

l) SSDD - Social Services and Development Department

m) CPDC - Central Police District Command

n) PNP - Philippine National Police

o) CENTER - Quezon City Center for Child and Youth Development
ARTICLE II

SECTION 5. RIGHTS OF CHILDREN: All children shall be entitled to the rights hereinafter set forth, as provided in the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), in addition to those rights espoused in the 1987 Constitution, Child and Youth Welfare Code (P.D. 603), and The Special Protection Act (R.A. 7610), and other related laws, irrespective of the child’s race, color, sex, language, religion, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status:

a) The inherent right to life, and the State, as Parens Patriae, as well as the City, has an obligation to ensure every child’s survival and development;

b) The right to express his views freely or without fear of rejection in all matters which affects his or her life and his opinion should be given due weight depending on his or her age and maturity;

c) To freedom of expression, except if it will violate or jeopardize the rights or reputation of others or for the protection of national security, public order, public health or morals;

d) No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his/her honor and reputation;

e) To freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to proper guidance by his parents or legal guardians;

f) To avail himself or herself of information and materials aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health;

g) To leisure, and to participate freely in recreational, cultural and art activities appropriate for his or her age.

h) The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

i) To preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.

j) To live with his or her parents unless this is deemed to be incompatible with the child’s best interests. The child has also the right to maintain contact with both parents, if separated from one or both.
k) Children and their parents have the right to leave any country and to enter their own, for purposes of reunion or the maintenance of the child-parent relationship.

l) To meet with others, and to join or form associations.

m) A disabled child has the right to special care, education, and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.

n) To the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. The Quezon City government shall place special emphasis on the provision of primary and preventive health care, public health education and the reduction of infant mortality.

o) A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.

p) To benefit from social security including social insurance.

q) To a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The Quezon City government’s duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled. The government can include material assistance to parents and their children.

r) Education shall aim at developing the child’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and foster respect for the child’s parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.

s) Children of minority communities and indigenous populations have the right to enjoy their own culture and to practice their own religion and language.

t) To be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education and development.

u) To protection from the use of narcotics and psychotropic drugs, and from being involved in their production or distribution.

v) A child in conflict with the law has the right to treatment which promotes the child’s sense of dignity and worth, takes the child’s age into account and aims at his or her reintegration into society. The child is entitled to basic guarantees as well as legal or other assistance for his or her defense. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided wherever possible.
SECTION 6. PARTICIPATION RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

a) Participation rights of children in decision-making processes:

The children in the family, school, community or their organization or institution shall be heard. Each child regardless of sex, age and tribe has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child. It shall be the responsibility of the adults to provide opportunities for children to express his or her views, obtain information, make ideas or information known, regardless of tribe, religion, age and sex.

b) Installation of mechanism for participation in policy and program formulation in the Quezon City government:

It is important to consult and provide venue for the expression of views relevant to the Quezon City government’s policies. It is therefore proper that children seven to twelve (7-12) years old and thirteen to eighteen (13-18) years old are convened to a meeting through their representatives, on a once a year basis, specifically during the children’s month, which is December. Non-government organizations (NGO’s) concerned with these groups of children shall be part of the process in both preparation and evaluation of the convention. Detailed implementing rules and guidelines shall be drafted by the Sangguniang Kabataan Secretariat in coordination with the Quezon City Office for Children’s Affairs.

c) Creation of the Special Office for Children’s Concerns:

The Quezon City Office for Children’s Concern shall be created to beef up the capability of the Social Services and Development Department in realizing the provisions of this Ordinance. It shall be the special coordination and implementing arm of the Quezon City government to focus on children’s specific programs and projects. It shall file complaints on cases of unlawful acts committed against children in the most expeditious process.

ARTICLE III

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVE CARE ON STREET CHILDREN.

SECTION 7. PROHIBITED ACTS: The following are prohibited acts punishable under existing laws, rules and regulations.

a) All acts and activities of streetchildren defined under Section 4 (g) hereof, are hereby considered as prohibited acts.
b) Any person who shall use coercion, force or intimidate to a streetchild or any other child to:

(1) Beg or use begging as a means of living,
(2) Act as middlemen in drug-trafficking or drug pushing, or
(3) Conduct any illegal activities

c) Parents or family members who encourage their children to engage in the above-mentioned prohibited acts, without legal and moral justification.

SECTION 8. RULES OF PROCEDURE IN:

a) MONITORING/REPORTING. Barangay officials, including the Barangay Security Development Officers (BSDO) are authorized to monitor and report the commission of prohibited acts, and, if necessary, to take into custody streetchildren found to have been loitering unaccompanied by their parents or legal guardian and deliver them to their homes.

b) APPREHENSION. Streetchildren falling within the definition of Sec. 4 (g-2 and 3) shall be brought immediately to the Reception and Action Center of the Social Services Development Department for mendicants and the socially disadvantaged group pending the establishment of the Quezon City Center for Child and Youth Development. The apprehending officer shall notify the child's parents or guardian on the whereabouts of the child. The child may be released to his family after being warned on the liability of the parents and guardian pursuant to P.D. 603 and this Ordinance. Claimants should present evidence that he is the parent or guardian, and they shall be made to sign a complete information release slip.

In cases where the apprehended streetchild falls within the provision of Sec. 4 (g-2 and 3) hereof, said child shall not be released. Instead, the case shall be immediately endorsed by the SSDD to the City Prosecutor or Special Prosecutor's Office, who shall immediately undertake the necessary steps for the prosecution of the apprehended minor in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Penal Code, and R.A. 6425, otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act. However, a child nine years of age or under at the time of the violation of this ordinance shall be exempt from liability, but it shall be the parent or guardian concerned who shall be held liable therefor.

All apprehending officers shall observe maximum tolerance in dealing with apprehended streetchildren.

c) MANNER OF INVESTIGATION. If necessary, apprehending officers shall observe child-friendly procedures in conducting investigations and apprehensions.
d) CUSTODY. The SSDD shall accept custody of apprehended street children and shall make proper evaluation of each child for proper referrals to their family and concerned agencies. During such temporary custody, the SSDD should provide all the necessities for the child's welfare.

e) COMMITMENT.

(1) Grounds - the SSDD shall make the proper recommendation if there is a strong evidence that the street-child is neglected or abandoned. The recommendation must be in the form of a verified petition for the involuntary commitment of said street-child to the care of any duly licensed child placement agency. The petition shall be filed with the Regional Trial Court of the place where the parents or guardian reside or where the child is found.

(2) Contents of the Petition.

a. The facts showing that the streetchild is abandoned or neglected;

b. The names of the parent or parents, if known, and their residence. If the child has no parent or parents living, then the name and residence of the guardian, if any;

c. The name of the duly licensed child placement agency or individual in whose care or custody the commitment of the child is sought.

(3) The judicial proceedings that will be conducted in connection with the prosecution of the petition shall be in conformity with Articles 144, 145,146,147,148,149 and 150 of P.D. 603, otherwise known as the Child and Youth Welfare Code.

SECTION 9. SPECIAL COURSE FOR PNP/CPDC MEMBERS. Each police station in Quezon City shall have a Children's Desk manned by a child and youth relations officer tasked to handle cases involving children. Child-friendly police procedures shall be followed/implemented as contained in the Police Handbook on the management of cases of children in difficult circumstances. Each PNP/CPDC elements shall be provided with a copy of the handbook.

A special course for members of the PNP/CPDC elements shall be designed to handle effectively children involved in anti-social activities. All police officers shall take up the course, especially those who are interested to be assigned with the Children's Desk in the police stations.
The course shall be designed and provided by the SSDD in close coordination with the PNP/CPDC child protection team, if any, and concerned professional organizations and non-government organizations focused on child and youth programs.

SECTION 10. LIABILITY OF PARENTS/PENAL PROVISION:

a) Any parent or guardian found to be grossly negligent in the performance of the duty imposed by this ordinance shall be punished, as follows: (1) for the first offense, admonition by the SSDD. (2) for the second offense, counseling by the SSDD and with a notice of the imposition of criminal liability for subsequent apprehension. (3) for the third and final offense, the filing by any responsible person of appropriate criminal charges against the parent or guardian of the minor who shall be punished with a fine of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00), or imprisonment of not more than ten (10) days, or both, at the discretion of the Court. The penalty imposed by this ordinance shall be without prejudice to the filing of other charges against the offender under R.A. 7610 (An act providing for stronger deterrence and special protection against child abuse, exploitation and discrimination).

b) Any person found guilty of violating Section 7 (b) of this Article, shall be punished with imprisonment of one year without prejudice to the filing of appropriate charges against the offender under R.A. 7610 and other related laws.

SECTION 11. CREATION OF THE QUEZON CITY CENTER FOR CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

a) Establishment of a Quezon City Center for Child and Youth Development. - There is hereby authorized the creation and establishment in Quezon City of a child and youth center, which shall be known as the Quezon City Center for Child and Youth Development, under the supervision and management of the Residential and Rehabilitation Division of the Social Services Development Department.

b) Location - The Center shall be housed at the second floor of the Reception and Action Center, located at Bernardo Park, Barangay Pinagkaisahan, Quezon City, with an area of Four Hundred Thirty-Three (433) square meters.

c) Functions - The Center shall provide and perform the following functions and services:

(1) Protective custody for children brought in the center whether temporary or permanent.
(2) Parental guidance and counseling;
(3) Educational opportunities and assistance;
(4) Psychological and psychiatric evaluation and treatment;
(5) Medical, physical, dental examinations and treatment;
(6) Spiritual and moral growth and livelihood development service;
(7) Home life service;
(8) Dietetic service;
(9) Self-employment assistance;
(10) Practical skills development;
(11) Special social services;
(12) Referral for legal assistance.

d) Policy-Making Body of the Center - The policy-making body of the Center shall be composed of the following Quezon City officials:

(1) The Head of the Social Services Development Department
(2) Two Councilors who are the Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Chairman of the Committee on Youth and Development.
(3) The City Administrator
(4) The City Health Officer and
(5) The Superintendent of the Division of City Schools

e) Powers - The policy-making body of the Center shall formulate the general powers necessary to carry out the purpose and administration of the Center and shall recommend, for the final approval of the City Council, the rules and regulations for the operation of the Center as managed by the Residential and Rehabilitation Division of the SSDD.

f) Quorum - a majority of all members of the Center who have been qualified and holding office at the time the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

g) Annual Report - The policy-making body shall submit a yearly report to the Mayor and the City Council of the Center’s financial status, past activities, as well as the growth and development of their beneficiaries, to make the center’s care for its residents more responsive to their needs.

h) Copy of the location plan of the Center of the organizational chart, scope of work and budgetary estimate for the construction of the Center, schedule of expenses for personal services, and maintenance and operating expenses, are hereto attached and made integral parts of this Ordinance.
Funding - There is hereby appropriated from the city share in the IRA or from any available funds in the City Treasury the amount of Six Million One Hundred Forty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Eight Pesos and Eighty-Eight Centavos (P6,144,338.88), or so much thereof as may be necessary to cover for the construction of the Center, purchase of the necessary furniture, equipment and commodities, personal services, maintenance and operating cost for the year 1997, broken down as follows:

(1) Capital Outlay:

Building with furniture & fixture - P 1,942,210.00

(2) Operational Expenses:

a) Personal Services - 2,954,052.00
b) Maintenance and Operation - 1,248,076.88

GRAND TOTAL - P 6,144,338.88

The amount of Two Million Nine Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Fifty-Two Pesos (P2,954,052.00) is hereby appropriated from any available funds of the City Treasury to cover the salaries, insurance, premiums and other benefits appurtenant to the personnel. The same to be included in the 1998 Annual Budget of the Quezon City government and every year thereafter.

SECTION 12. PROGRAMS

a) The SSDD must conduct periodic community dialogues especially with barangay officials, BSDO's and CPDC personnel.

b) Parent Education Program - The SSDD shall, from time to time, hold parent education congress which shall aim to enable parents to understand child growth and development, parent-child relationship, family life, family-community relationship.

c) Scholarships for deserving residents of the Center.

d) Barangay officials are encouraged to keep a record of the trend of the proliferation or diminution of the existence of street children in their barangay. This is for the purpose of providing local NGO's and other concerned agencies with facts and statistics which may be used as the basis for determining the policies that will be used to truly address the needs of the children.

SECTION 13. Donations and grants to the Center shall be exclusively used for the operation of the Center for the benefit of its residents.
ARTICLE IV

BASIC HEALTH, NUTRITION AND WELFARE

SECTION 14. EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - The Quezon City government shall initiate for the care of 0-2 years old children through the early childhood care and development program which shall be supervised and implemented by the Social Services Development Department in every day care.

SECTION 15. PROMOTION OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM - The Barangay Health Center shall implement the primary health care program. Each Barangay health center shall have a Barangay Child Health Officer who shall monitor child health in the Barangay level with a salary commensurate to the task assigned.

To further ensure the implementation of Section 2 of this Ordinance, the Quezon City government, through the City Health Office, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:

1) To combat disease and malnutrition within the framework of primary health care, through the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious food and safe drinking water, taking into consideration the dangers and risk of environmental pollution.

2) To establish a comprehensive Parents Orientation Development Program which include courses on reproductive health, child health and child rearing practices in the context of Filipino psychology.

3) To conduct massive information and education on breastfeeding. Utilizing existing reference materials for effective breastfeeding edification program.

SECTION 16. CHILD FRIENDLY HOSPITALS IN QUEZON CITY. - All hospitals in Quezon City shall set-up child-friendly units to include rooming in facilities and pediatric-appropriate mechanisms and gadgets.

SECTION 17. LOCAL CHILDREN'S LITERATURE - In support of the socio-cultural development of children in Quezon City, the Quezon City government shall invest in the production of local literature or other relevant materials for children.

ARTICLE V

REGULATORY PROVISIONS ON LEISURE AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
CHAPTER I: REGULATING THE PLAYING/SELLING/DISTRIBUTION OF VIDEO GAMES, MACHINES, FAMILY COMPUTERS AND OTHER SIMILAR ITEMS/MACHINES FOUND IN AMUSEMENT CENTERS, MALLS, AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS

SECTION 18. The Operation of any kind of video machine, arcade, family/personal computer used for games and other similar contraption within the radius of five hundred (500) meters from any educational or religious institution is prohibited.

SECTION 19. All minors, particularly school children, are totally restricted to play the above mentioned devices found in amusement centers, malls and other similar establishments located in Quezon City, during school hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays. Operators and owners of these machines are enjoined to strictly implement this prohibition.

SECTION 20. Minors may be allowed to play video-game machines and other similar equipment at the above-mentioned establishments only during weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., and on weekdays between 5:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. subject to the limitations/conditions herein provided.

SECTION 21. a) Video games shall be categorized into:

(1) Puzzle
(2) Sports
(3) Fighting/combat
(4) Action
(5) Racing
(6) Adventure
(7) Strategy
(8) Simulator
(9) Space combat

b) Video games shall be rated into:

(1) KF - Kid-friendly (non-violent)
(2) V - Violent
(3) UV - Ultra-violent

SECTION 22. Children below 14 years of age may play video games rated as non-violent games under the category of sports, adventure, racing, flight simulator and the likes, during the hours/days allowed under this ordinance.

SECTION 23. Children 15-18 years of age may play video games rated as less violent games under the category of sports, action, racing, adventure, strategy, flight simulator and the likes, during the hours/days allowed under this ordinance.
SECTION 24. Ultra-violent games defined: those games that reveal on audio or video graphics, obscenity, bestiality and brutality such as the throwing of invectives, slandering, the breaking of limbs, mutilation or dismemberment, spewing of blood, blasting of limb/body with high powered guns or equipment.

SECTION 25. Ultra-violent video games, pornographic animation, nudity, video carreras and other similar form which corrupt the child’s intellectual, spiritual, social and emotional growth are prohibited from being operated, sold or distributed.

SECTION 26. The video regulatory board, as may be created under the Business Permits and Licensing Office, monitor and screen all video games and animation and to rate or categorize a particular game or video file, and to implement the provisions of Article V, Chapter 1, of this Ordinance.

SECTION 27. PENAL PROVISION - Violation of any provision of this Ordinance by any operator, owner, seller, or distributor of video games and machines shall be penalized with the following:

First offense: Fine of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) or an imprisonment of not more than 4 (four) months at the discretion of the Court.

Second offense: Fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) with an imprisonment of not more than six (6) months, at the discretion of the Court.

Third offense: Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) with an imprisonment of not more than twelve (12) months, at the discretion of the Court, including the confiscation/destruction of video machines and other related paraphernalia/materials and the automatic cancellation/revocation of business permits or licenses. However, in the case of a corporation, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the officials responsible for such violation.

CHAPTER II: PROHIBITING THE SELLING OF CIGARETTES AND LIQUOR TO MINORS

SECTION 28. The sale of any brand of cigarettes or kind of liquor or intoxicating drinks to persons below eighteen years of age is strictly prohibited.

SECTION 29. Any person whether manufacturer, wholesaler or retailer found to be selling cigarettes or liquor to minors shall be held liable under this ordinance.

SECTION 30. Any person found violating the provisions of this Chapter shall be penalized with a minimum term of imprisonment of thirty (30) days to a maximum term of imprisonment of sixty (60) days and/or a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), at the discretion of the Court.
SECTION 31. The officials and employees of the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) and the Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) shall implement the provisions of this Chapter.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 32. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If, for any reason, any provisions of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full legal force and effect.

SECTION 33. EFFECTIVITY - This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.


HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Secretary

APPROVED: NOV 24 1997

ISMAEL A. MATHAY, JR.
City Mayor