CITY ORDINANCE NO. CO 34-2019
SERIES OF 2019

AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE “ALERT 161” PROGRAM, IDENTIFYING ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF.

Sponsored by:

Hon. Reynaldo D. Palabraica and Hon. Alejandro F. Gutierrez

BE IT ORDAINED AS IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacoor, Cavite THAT:

Section 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the “ALERT 161 Ordinance of the City of Bacoor”.

Section 2. Purposes. This Ordinance is intended to achieve the following:

2.1. Create an emergency response system and public complaints action center for the City of Bacoor to be known as “ALERT 161”;

2.2. Promote public-private partnership in the implementation of the emergency response activities and the disaster risk reduction management program of the city government;

2.3. Increase community involvement in the implementation of the emergency response activities and the disaster risk reduction management program of the city government;

2.4. Promote public order and safety through the creation and operationalization of the ALERT 161 Program; and

2.5. Create a rapid feedback mechanism that will act on complaints by members of the public against employees or officials of the city government or of the 73 barangays of the City of Bacoor.

Section 3. Creation. A quick reaction, all weather, non-profit emergency response, rescue and relief system and public complaints action center for the City of Bacoor to be known as ALERT 161 is hereby created.
Section 4. Organizational Set-up. The management of the day-to-day operations of ALERT 161, including the training, hiring, and control of its personnel, the maintenance and upgrading of its equipment and supplies, and the development of its operational rules and procedures shall be under the control of the Bacoor Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office.

Section 5. Functions and Duties. ALERT 161 shall have the following functions and duties:

5.1. Serve as the vanguard of the city government’s disaster risk reduction management program;

5.2. Act as the public complaints action center of the city government that would accept complaints from members of the public, immediately relay the said complaints to the public officials concerned, and report back to the complainant/s as to the action/s taken by the officials concerned within the parameters set under Republic Act No. 11032 (the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018”);

5.3. Provide assistance to all persons within the City of Bacoor seeking emergency assistance within 5-10 minutes after receiving a request for assistance;

5.4. Maintain a hotline (161) to be manned by phone receptionists trained in emergency response;

5.5. Ensure that all calls for assistance are answered within one minute after a call is made on the hotline;

5.6. Coordinate with elements of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine National Red Cross, privately owned hospitals and clinics within the City, the City Health Office and emergency response units of the national government or of other LGUs in managing/responding to various disasters or emergencies;

5.7. Develop systems/programs for the improvement of public awareness on the existence of ALERT 161;

5.8. Coordinate disaster management/emergency response efforts in the event of calamities within the City of Bacoor;

5.9. Cause the filing of the appropriate criminal or administrative complaint against any person who violates this Ordinance; and

5.10. Perform such functions and duties as may be directed by the City Mayor or by the Sangguniang Panlungsod by way of a resolution or ordinance.
Section 6. Duty of PNP, BFP, Private Hospitals to Assist ALERT 161. The PNP, BFP, and privately owned hospitals operating within the City of Bacoor are duty bound to assist ALERT 161 during emergencies or calamities. The unjustified refusal of any personnel of the PNP or BFP, or of any employee or official of any privately owned hospital in the City of Bacoor to immediately assist ALERT 161 during calamities or emergencies shall be deemed a violation of this Ordinance. Additionally, the Chief of the Bacoor Police Station and the Chief of Bacoor Fire Station Operations shall assigns their personnel to the BDRRMO Center on a 24/7 basis and require the said personnel to actively assist ALERT 161 in fulfilling its mandate, duties, and functions.

Section 7. Recording, Saving, and Deletion of all Emergency Calls. ALERT 161 shall record all the emergency calls that shall receive and shall save audio files of such calls for sixty (60) calendar days in its computer servers. If such audio files are not used as evidence in any legal action anywhere in the Philippines within the said period, the head of the BDRRMO shall have the authority to order the deletion of the said audio files from its official records. Provided that: the time and date when the said audio files were recorded, saved, and deleted shall be duly recorded in a ledger kept for the said purposes together with a brief description of the name and contact details of the caller, the time and date when the call was made, the nature of the emergency, and the nature of the action taken by ALERT 161 with regard the said call.

Section 8. Authority of ALERT 161 to Collect Fees for Emergency Calls. While ALERT 161 is not intended to realize profit for the city government, it shall have the right to collect Ten Pesos (P10.00) for every emergency call it receives for the purpose of making the operations of ALERT 161 and the BDRRMO sustainable and to dissuade prank calls. The collection of such fees and its remittance to the City Treasury shall be done in partnership with various telecommunications service providers by way of a Memorandum of Agreement, or any similar written agreement, duly approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod.

Section 9. ALERT 161 Trust Fund. All fees collected by reason of the immediately preceding section shall be deposited in a trust fund to be maintained by the Office of the City Treasurer. All amounts deposited in the said trust fund, including interest earnings therefrom, shall only be used to purchase, upgrade, or maintain various equipment, supplies, or facilities of the BDRRMO or of ALERT 161 or any facility owned or operated by the City Government intended for disaster risk reduction management or for climate change adaptation/mitigation purposes. The use of the said funds shall be subject to prevailing auditing or accounting rules and regulations.

Section 10. Prohibition on Prank Calls. Prank calls, or calls pertaining to events that are either untrue or made up, intended to disrupt the operations of ALERT 161 or confuse any of its personnel or
any emergency responder are hereby prohibited and shall be deemed a violation of this Ordinance. The parents or legal guardians of prank callers who are still minors, or who are mentally unsound, at the time the prank call was made shall be held liable for such violation.

Section 11. Penalties.

(a) All natural persons who violate this Ordinance shall be meted with the following penalties:

First Offense: Fine of P3,000.00;
Second Offense: Fine of P4,000.00;
Third Offense: Fine of P5,000.00 and imprisonment of not less than thirty (30) days and not more than sixty (60) days.

(b) The management of all privately owned hospitals in violation of this Ordinance shall be meted with the following penalties:

First Offense: Fine of P3,000.00;
Second Offense: Fine of P4,000.00;
Third Offense: Fine of P5,000.00 and suspension of business permit to operate for not less than thirty (30) days and not more than sixty (60) days.

Section 12. Separability Clause. In case any provision of this Ordinance is found void by a court of law, the other provisions hereof not affected by such declaration shall remain valid.

Section 13. Repeal Clause. All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, memoranda, or circulars not consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified, or amended.

Section 14. Effectivity Clause. This Ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after it has been published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation, posted on at least three (3) conspicuous places within the City of Bacoor, and after the Sangguniang Panlalawigan has approved it.

ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacoor, Province of Cavite this 14th day of October 2019.
I hereby certify to the truth and correctness of the foregoing Ordinance and that it was duly approved in accordance with law.

Certified Correct:

HON. CATHERINE SARINO-EVARISTO
City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

Affected by:

ATTY. KHALID A. ATEGA, JR.
Sangguniang Panlungod Secretary

Approved by:

HON. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
City Mayor

Date of Approval: OCT 30 2019

ALERT 161 Ordinance of the City of Bacoor