CITY ORDINANCE NO. CO 69-2020
Series of 2020

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A 60-DAY GRACE PERIOD IN THE PAYMENT OF RENT ON ALL RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL REAL PROPERTIES SITUATED IN THE CITY OF BACOOR BEING LEASED BY (1) SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, (2) BARANGAY MICRO-BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, (3) LICENSED PROFESSIONALS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSIONS, (4) NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND (5) TRICYCLE OPERATORS AND DRIVERS’ ASSOCIATIONS THAT WOULD FALL DUE DURING THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE WITHOUT INCURRING INTERESTS, PENALTIES, CHARGES AND OTHER FEES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF.

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WHEREAS, a state of public health emergency was declared by President Rodrigo Duterte due to the growing threat to public health and safety posed by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

WHEREAS, on 15 March 2020, the island of Luzon was placed under an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) which led to the shutting down of schools, factories, and various businesses including small and medium enterprises, public transportation, and shopping malls and the suspension of other economic activities that are considered non-essential by the national government.

WHEREAS, on 24 March 2020, Republic Act No. 11469 (also known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”) was signed into law by President Duterte. Under Section 4 (2) (bb) of the said law, a minimum 30-day grace period on the payment of rentals on residential properties falling due within the period of the ECQ was provided in favor of lessees and freeing them from having to pay interests, penalties, charges, and other fees on their unpaid rents. However, a similar grace period was not provided in the said law in the case of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), barangay micro business enterprises (BMBEs), licensed professionals, non-government
organizations, and tricycle operators and drivers associations (TODAs) that/who are also negatively impacted by the ECQ.

WHEREAS, Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 (the "Local Government Code of 1991") authorized local government units to "exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare" and to "ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among their residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants".

WHEREAS, considering that RA 11469 did not provide a grace period for the payment of rent for commercial, residential, and agricultural real properties being leased by SMEs, BMBEs, licensed professionals, NGOs, and TODAs that would fall due during the ECQ and in view of the mandate of LGUs to promote the general welfare especially during times of public calamity such as is being currently experienced by the entire country under the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, it behooves the Sangguniang Panlungsod to pass an ordinance that provides a much needed economic relief to owners of SMEs and BMBEs as well as to licensed professionals who have experienced significant levels of economic displacement due to the implementation of the ECQ.

NOW THEREFORE, upon motion of Hon. Rowena Bautista-Mendiola duly seconded by all the members of the city council, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod in regular online session duly assembled THAT:

SECTION 1. Title. This Ordinance shall be known as the "RENTAL GRACE PERIOD ORDINANCE OF BACOOR".

SECTION 2. Application. This Ordinance shall apply to all (1) small and medium enterprises, (2) barangay micro-business enterprises, (3) licensed professionals, (4) non-government organizations (NGOs), and (5) tricycle operators and drivers associations (TODAs) operating within the City of Bacoor, Cavite that are renting commercial, residential, or agricultural real properties situated within the city for the use of their respective businesses, professions, charities, or livelihood the operation of which were suspended during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). Provided that:

2.1. The term "small and medium enterprises" or "SMEs" shall refer to any business entity with 10 to 199
employees and/or assets valued from P3 million to P100 million;

2.2. The term "barangay micro-business enterprises" or "BMBEs" shall refer to any business entity or enterprise engaged in the production, processing or manufacturing of products or commodities, including agro-processing, trading and services, whose total assets including those arising from loans but exclusive of the land on which the particular business entity's office, plant and equipment are situated, shall not be more than Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000.00);

2.3. The word "professionals" shall refer to persons who passed a licensure board or bar exam under Philippine law and the term "practice of profession" shall refer to an activity or undertaking rendered by a registered and licensed professional or a holder of a special temporary permit as defined under Philippine law or by Philippine government regulations;

2.4. The term "non-government organizations" shall refer to all associations formed by persons not connected with, or employed by, the government and dedicated for the promotion of the common good, charitable causes, religious beliefs, and other advocacies that redound to the promotion of the general welfare or to the interests of a particular sector of society; and

2.5. "Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations" or "TODAS" shall refer to any association of operators and drivers of tricycles operating as public utility vehicles in the City of Bacoor that is duly recognized by, and accredited with, the city government.

SECTION 3. Grace Period and Ban Against Imposition of Penalties. A sixty (60)-day grace period is hereby granted in favor of all (1) small and medium enterprises, (2) barangay micro-business enterprises, (3) licensed professionals, (4) non-government organizations (NGOs), and (5) tricycle operators and drivers associations (TODAs) operating within the City of Bacoor, Cavite that/who are renting commercial, residential, or agricultural real properties for the use of their respective businesses, practice of profession, charitable causes or advocacies, and/or livelihoods that are also situated in the City of Bacoor, Cavite that shall fall due during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). The said 60-day grace period shall commence on the day after the ECQ has been lifted by competent government authorities. Moreover, all persons/businesses/associations who/that will avail of the said grace period shall not be charged any interests, penalties, fees, or other charges by their lessor/s on the rents that would fall due within the period mentioned above.
SECTION 4. Pay Balance on Installment. Immediately after the 60-day grace period provided in Section 3, the unpaid rentals that became due during the ECQ shall be settled by the lessees covered by this Ordinance in twelve (12) equal installments spread over twelve (12) succeeding months after the lifting of the ECQ by competent government authorities. The exact date when each monthly installment shall be paid shall be subject to the written agreement of the lessors and lessees affected by this Ordinance. Lessors covered by this Ordinance shall not require their lessees who are covered by this Ordinance to charge any additional fees, interests, penalties, or fees on the said installments.

SECTION 5. Implementation. The Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) is hereby authorized to formulate the implementing guidelines of this Ordinance within five (5) business days after the effectivity date hereof and shall supervise the implementation of this Ordinance with the assistance of the City Inspection and Compliance Unit (CICU).

SECTION 6. Penalties. All natural persons who shall violate this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined P2,000.00 or shall be required to perform community service for not more than 24 hours consisting of work related to the efforts of the city government to combat the spread of COVID-19 or to the rehabilitation of the city due to the said pandemic to be determined by the appropriate court of law upon the suggestion of the City Mayor. Provided that: any form of community service rendered by persons found to have violated this Ordinance should not comprise of cruel or unusual punishment or any other type of punishment that can be characterized as an assault on human rights.

Juridical persons that fail to implement this Ordinance shall be required to pay a fine of P5,000.00 and their business permits, if any, shall be suspended for ten (10) successive days.

SECTION 7. Separability. In case any provision of this Ordinance is declared void, the other provisions hereof not affected by such declaration shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 8. Repeal. The provisions of any ordinance, resolution or executive order that is inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Dissemination. The BPLO is hereby tasked to disseminate copies of this Ordinance via email or through the use of social media after it has become effective.
SECTION 10. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall be immediately implemented upon its approval by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and its publication in the official websites of the Bacoor City government (www.bacoor.gov.ph) and of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacoor (www.bacoorcitiesp.com).

APPROVED on the 6th day of April 2020 by a unanimous vote of all the members of the 4th Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacoor, Cavite during a regular session conducted online held in the City of Bacoor, Cavite with the use of a videoconferencing application approved by a majority of its members.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance is true and correct and that it was duly passed in accordance with law.

CERTIFIED BY:

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

ATTESTED BY:

ATTY. KHALID A. ATEGA JR.
Sangguniang Panlungsod Secretary

APPROVED BY:

HON. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
City Mayor