CITY ORDINANCE NO. CO 70-2020
Series of 2020

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE COMMISSION OF ANY ACT THAT CAUSES OR TENDS TO CAUSE DISCRIMINATION, VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION, HARASSMENT, SHAME, OR INDIGNITY AGAINST PERSONS INFECTED BY THE 2019 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUIs), PERSONS UNDER MONITORING (PUMs), HEALTH WORKERS, POLICE OFFICERS, AND OTHER FRONTLINERS AND THEIR RELATIVES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF.

Sponsored by:

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).

WHEREAS, as of 3 April 2020, the City of Bacoor, Cavite already has 20 confirmed COVID-19 positive cases, 75 persons under investigation (PUIs), and 414 persons under monitoring (PUMs) and at least one health worker in Sultan Kudarat has been physically attacked by persons who wrongly thought the hapless frontliner, who was then on his way home, would spread the disease to other people just by walking near them.

WHEREAS, city government officials have been receiving reports from the relatives of the patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as from those who are considered as PUls that they have been subjected to various acts of discrimination, their rights to privacy have been violated, and that threats of violence have been made against them by people who think that bigotry can somehow shield them from the contagion.
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, acts of violence, discrimination or hatred directed against health workers and other frontliners in the battle against COVID-19 must be stopped because they not only endanger the person/s subject of maltreatment but public health and safety as well. Acts of bigotry directed against COVID-19 positive patients, PUIs, PUMs and their relatives must be curbed because they not only violate human rights but also make the campaign to limit the spread of the contagion more complicated and difficult which will ultimately endanger public health and safety.

NOW THEREFORE, upon motion of Hon. Alde Joselito F. Pagulayan 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 “ANTI COVID-19 DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE OF BACOOR”.

SECTION 2. Prohibition. The commission of any act against any person diagnosed to have been infected with the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), or any person under investigation (PUI) or person under monitoring (PUM) because of COVID-19, or any health worker, doctor, nurse, police officer, city government or barangay official/employee, or any other person directly engaged in the fight against the dreaded disease, or their relatives that causes — or tends to cause — physical injury, violence, discrimination, shame, ridicule, stigmatization, abuse, indignity, or that violates their right to privacy as defined under Republic Act No. 10173 (the “Data Privacy Act of 2012”) is hereby prohibited.
The sending, posting, sharing, forwarding, or distribution of any message, image, or meme on social media, the internet, on printed publications, or through text messages or emails that encourages others, or tends to encourage others, to hurt, discriminate, shame, ridicule, shame, abuse, or that violates the right to privacy as defined under Republic Act No. 10173 (the “Data Privacy Act of 2012”) of any person diagnosed to have been infected with the 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), or any person under investigation (PUI) or person under monitoring (PUM) because of COVID-19, or any health worker, doctor, nurse, police officer, city government or barangay official/employee, or any other person directly engaged in the fight against the dreaded disease or their relatives is likewise prohibited.

SECTION 3. Implementation. All police officers, barangay officials, and city government officials and employees of the City of Bacoor, Cavite are hereby authorized to implement this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. Penalties. All natural persons who shall violate this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined P5,000.00 or shall be imprisoned for six (6) months upon the discretion of the proper court of law.

SECTION 5. Separability. In case any provision of this Ordinance is declared void, the other provisions of hereof not affected by such declaration shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 6. Repeal. The provisions of any ordinance that is inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. 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 8. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall be immediately implemented upon its approval and 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