

Republika ng Pilipinas
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Lungsod Ng Bacolod
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CITY ORDINANCE NO. 651
Series of 2013

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTIONALIZED AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD.

WHEREAS, Section 458 (5) (XIV) of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that the Sangguniang Panlungsod, as the legislative body of the city, shall enact ordinances that provide for the care of disabled persons, paupers, the sick, persons of unsound mind, abandoned minors, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, abused children and other needy and disadvantaged persons particularly children and youth below eighteen (18) years of age; an subject to availability of funds, establish and provide for the operation of centers and facilities for said needy and disadvantaged persons;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City has enacted City Ordinance No. 537, Series of 2011 establishing the Bacolod City Special Children's Board with powers and responsibilities to coordinate with the Division of City Schools, SPED Section and act on such suitable programs for the benefit of children with autism and special needs and providing them and their families easy access to educational and rehabilitation services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, as it is hereby ordained, by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City, that:

Section 1. Short Title - This Ordinance shall be known as 'Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy Program for Children with Autism and Special Needs Ordinance'.

Section 2. Declaration of Terms- For purposes of this Ordinance, the following definition of terms shall apply;

- a) **Autism** – is a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and verbal and non-verbal communication, and by restricted, repetitive or stereotyped behavior. The diagnostic criteria require that symptoms become apparent before a child is three years old. Autism affects information processing in the brain by altering how nerve cells and their synapses connect and organize; how this occurs is not well understood. It is one of three recognized disorders in the autism spectrum (ASDs), the other two being Asperger syndrome, which lacks delays in cognitive development and language, and pervasive developmental disorder, not otherwise specified (commonly abbreviated as PDD-NOS), which is diagnosed when the full set of criteria for autism or Asperger are not met.

Parents usually notice signs in the first two years of their child's life. The signs usually develop gradually, but some children with autism first develop more normally and then regress. Early behavioral, cognitive, or speech interventions



can help these children gain self-care, social, and communication skills. Although there is no known cure, there have been reported cases of children who recovered. Not many children with autism live independently after reaching adulthood, though some become successful. And autistic culture has developed, with some individuals seeking a cure and others believing autism should be accepted as a difference and not treated as a disorder;

- b) **Child With Autism** –Most infants and young children are very social creatures who need and want contact with others to thrive and grow. They smile, cuddle, laugh, and respond eagerly to games like “peek-a-boo” or hide-and-seek. Occasionally, however, a child does not interact in his expected manner. Instead, the child seems to exist in his or her own world, a place characterized by repetitive routines, odd and peculiar behaviors, problems in communication, and a total lack of social awareness or interest in others. These are characteristics of a developmental disorder called autism.

Autism is usually identified by the time a child is 30 months old. It is often discovered when parents become concerned that their child may be deaf, is not yet talking, resists cuddling, and avoid interaction with others.

Some of the early signs and symptoms which suggest a young child may need further evaluation for autism include:

- . no smiling by six months of age
- . no back and forth sharing of sounds, smiles or facial expressions by nine months
- . no babbling, pointing, reaching or waving by 12 months
- . no single words by 16 months
- . no two word phrases by 24 months
- . regression in development
- . any loss of speech, babbling or social skills

A preschool age child with “classic” autism is generally withdrawn, aloof, and fails to respond to other people. Many of these children will not even make eye contact. They may also engage in odd or ritualistic behaviors like rocking, hand flapping, or an obsessive need to maintain order.

Many children with autism do not speak at all. Those who do may speak in rhyme, have echolalia (repeating a person’s words like an echo), refer to themselves as a “he” or “she,” or use peculiar language.

The severity of autism varies widely, from mild to severe. Some children are very bright and do well in school, although they have problems with school adjustment. They may be able to live independently when they grow up. Other children with



autism function at a much lower level. Mental retardation is commonly associated with autism.

Occasionally, a child with autism may display an extraordinary talent in art, music, or another specific area.

The cause of autism remains unknown, although current theories indicate a problem with the function or structure of the central nervous system. What we do know, however, is that parents do not cause autism.

Children with autism need a comprehensive evaluation and specialized behavioral and education programs. Some children with autism may also benefit from treatment with medication. Child and adolescent psychiatrists are trained to diagnose autism, and to help families design and implement an appropriate treatment plan. They can also help families cope with the stress which may be associated with having a child with autism.

Although there is no cure for autism, appropriate specialized treatment provided early in life can have a positive impact on the child's development and produce an overall reduction in disruptive behaviors and symptoms.

- c) **Children with special needs** - are children with a variety of different disabilities, health and mental health conditions that require special intervention, services, or support.

Section 4. Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy Programs

The Bacolod City Government shall undertake continuing awareness and support advocacy programs that would protect the well-being of children with autism and special needs; motivate the full participation and involvement of their families in their rehabilitation activities; and that would promote measures to discover and maximize the development of their skills and potentials so as to prepare them to become useful and productive adults.

With this in view, the Month of January of each year shall be designate as Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy Month dedicated for children with autism and special needs of the City of Bacolod.

The City Government, in coordination with the Division of City Schools, SPED Section of the DepEd, the SP Chairmen of the following SP Committees: Committee on Education, Committee on Family and Child Care and Development, Committee on Social Services and Committee on Health and Sanitation; private organizations of parents and professionals advocating for the cause of children with autism and special needs and the Bacolod City Special Children's Board, shall come up with a month-long Program of Activities that would

encourage awareness and full support for the development, rehabilitation and benefit of children with autism and special needs.

Section 5. Funding. There shall be appropriated a yearly amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) to be taken from Grants and Subsidies Account, for various program on Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. All ordinances and Executive Orders contrary or not consistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:

Affirmative:

Councilors: Homer Q. Bais, Archie S. Baribar, Catalino T. Alisbo, Em L. Ang, Dindo C. Ramos, Sonya M. Verdeflor, Al Victor A. Espino, Caesar Z. Distrito, Mona Dia G. Jardin.

Negative: None.

Absent: None.

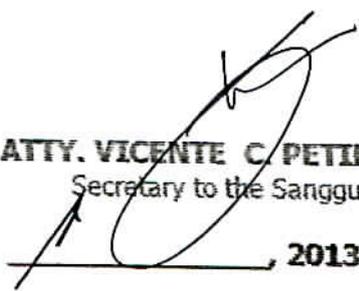
Official Leave: Vice Mayor Jude Thaddeus A. Sayson and Councilor Carlos Jose V. Lopez.

Main Author: Councilor Sonya M. Verdeflor

Passed: June 26, 2012 (155th Regular Session).

Comment: Passed.
Councilors Roberto M. Rojas, Elmer T. Sy and Keith Emmanuel L. Ramos were not around when this ordinance was passed.

ATTESTED:

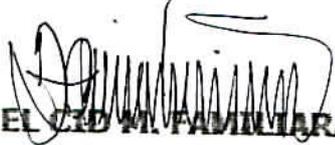

ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE III
Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED:

VCP/HPL/itm*

2013

10 DAYS LAPSED
AS OF JULY 19, 2013


ELPIDIO M. FAMILIARAN
Acting Presiding Officer

EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
City Mayor



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Tanggapan ng Sangguniang Panlungsod
Lungsod ng Bacolod

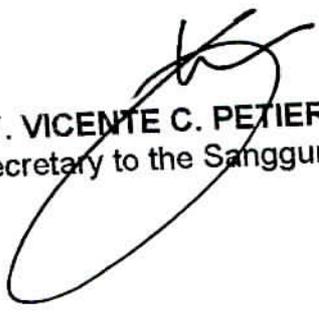
CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that **City Ordinance No. 651**, Series of 2013, passed by the Sangguniang Panlungsod on June 26, 2013, entitled:

**“AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN
INSTITUTIONALIZED AUTISM AWARENESS AND
SUPPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN
WITH AUTISM AND SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE CITY OF
BACOLOD”**

was submitted to the Office of the City Mayor on July 9, 2013 for approval. The ten (10) day period lapsed on July 19, 2013 without the Mayor's signature. This ordinance is therefore considered in effect in accordance with law.

Bacolod City, Philippines, July 29, 2013.


ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE III
Secretary to the Sanggunian

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