

**REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS  
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD  
LUNGSOD NG BAKOLOD**

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**CITY ORDINANCE NO. 08-15-740  
May 27, 2015**

**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MASS WEDDING PROGRAM IN THE  
CITY OF BACOLOD AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.**

**WHEREAS**, Article II, Section 12 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution;

**WHEREAS**, Section 16 of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 mandates the Local Government Units to exercise their power which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare of the people;

**WHEREAS**, Article I of Executive Order 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines provides that Marriage is a special contract of permanent union between a man and a woman entered into in accordance with law for the establishment of conjugal and family life. It is the foundation of the family and an inviolable social institution whose nature, consequences, and incidents are governed by law and not subject to stipulation, except that marriage settlements may fix the property relations during marriage within the limits provided by the Code;

**WHEREAS**, according to Article 178 of the Family Code, a subsequent valid marriage between parents living under a common law or "live-in" regime without any legal impediment to contract marriage, effects legitimation among illegitimate children and couples are governed by a marriage property regime for their common benefit;

**WHEREAS**, Presidential Decree 965, Series of 1976, otherwise known as a decree requiring applicant for marriage license to receive instructions on family planning and responsible parenthood, provides an avenue for applicants of marriage license to be informed and instructed on family planning and responsible parenthood in lieu of the population program of the government;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Bacolod supports the affirmation that marriage is the foundation of the family being an inviolable social institution whose nature, consequences and incidents are governed by law;

**WHEREAS**, it is to encourage couples without any legal impediment to contract marriage to enter the state of marriage being beneficial to them giving more positive effects in favoring legitimacy over illegitimacy;





**WHEREAS**, this ordinance also promotes the right of every child to have a name and family making them effective members of the society;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City that:

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This ordinance shall be known as, the “**Bacolod City Mass Wedding Ordinance**”.

**SECTION 2 . Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the City of Bacolod to strengthen the relationship and family life of unmarried individuals making it more beneficial to them and their children having all positive legal effects for all intents and purposes.

**SECTION 3. Scope.** – This ordinance shall be applicable and available to all male and female couple residents of Bacolod City not otherwise disqualified by law to enter into marriage.

**SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.**

- a. **City Health Office** – refers to one of the coordinating local agencies forming the Pre-Marriage Counseling Team pursuant to City ordinance No. 528, Series of 2010 which is responsible for the conduct of pre-marriage seminar as pre-requisite for the celebration of marriage.
- b. **City Population Office** – refers to the local agency forming the Pre-Marriage Counseling Team pursuant to City Ordinance No. 528, Series of 2010 which is responsible for the conduct of pre-marriage seminar as pre-requisite for the celebration of marriage.
- c. **Couple** – refers to the man and woman qualified under the law to enter into marriage.
- d. **Department of Social Services and Development** – refers to one of the coordinating local agencies forming the Pre-Marriage Counseling Team pursuant to City Ordinance No. 528, Series of 2010 which is responsible for the conduct of pre-marriage seminar as pre-requisite for the celebration of marriage.
- e. **Local Civil Registry Office** – refers to the local agency responsible in carrying out the objective of this ordinance.
- f. **Marriage** – refers to the social union or legal contract between a man and a woman called spouses that establishes their corresponding rights and obligations as mandated by law.

- g. **Mass Wedding** – refers to the marriage ceremony involving ten (10) or more couples which takes place with the appearance of the contracting parties before the solemnizing officer and their personal declaration that they take each other as husband and wife in the presence of not less than two witnesses of legal age.
  
- h. **Solemnizing Officer** – refers to any person authorized by law to solemnize marriage in accordance with Article 7 of Executive Order 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines and Section 455 (xviii) of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines.

**SECTION 5. *Mass Wedding*** – In line with the celebration of the Philippine Civil Registration Month, there shall be a celebration of a General Mass Wedding in a scheduled day in the month of February of every year which may be solemnized by the City Mayor at his discretion, pursuant to the powers granted to him under Section 455 (xviii) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, or by any officer authorized to solemnize within their jurisdiction.




A mass wedding may also be conducted in Barangays per request before the Civil Registrar's Office of the barangay concerned.

**SECTION 6. *Privileges*** – Only a minimal fee of fifty pesos (P50.00) for the procurement of marriage license shall be charged to indigent applicant spouses. No other necessary expenses in the application of marriage shall be charged to indigent applicant spouses including pre-marriage seminar fee and marriage certificate expenses. The indigency of the applicant spouses shall be verified by the Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD) before availing of these privileges.

**SECTION 7. *Implementation*** – The Local Civil Registry Office shall be responsible in providing the procedure in availing the benefit under this ordinance and the guidelines as to the qualifications of applicant spouses including those couples living as husband and wife for at least 5 years without any legal impediment to contract marriage pursuant to Article 34 of the family Code, provided that all marrying couples shall undergo if applicable, the usual seminars being conducted by the City Population Office, in coordination with the City Health Office and the Department of Social Services and Development, prior to the date of the mass wedding. The Local Civil Registry Office shall also be responsible for the availability of the solemnizing officer for the scheduled date of the mass wedding.

**SECTION 8. *Budget*** - The City shall allocate an annual budget of at least Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000.00) from the General Appropriation Fund for the expenses of the mass wedding program.

**SECTION 9. *Separability Clause*** - If for any reason, any provision, section or part of this ordinance is declared not valid by a court of competent jurisdiction or suspended or revoked, such judgment shall not affect or impair the remaining provisions, sections or parts thereof, which shall remain or continue to be in full force and effect.



**SECTION 10. Repealing Clause** - All ordinances, local rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause** - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval.

**CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:**

Affirmative :

Councilors : El Cid M. Familiaran, Jocelle Batapa-Sigue, Roberto M. Rojas, Em L. Ang, Claudio Jesus Raymundo A. Puentevella, Caesar Z. Distrito, Archie S. Baribar, Wilson C. Gamboa, Jr., Alex A. Paglumotan, Sonya M. Verdeflor, Ana Marie V. Palermo and Noli B. Villarosa.

Official Travel: Councilor Jose Carlos V. Lopez

Absent : None

Main Author: Councilor Wilson C. Gamboa, Jr.

Passed: May 27, 2015  
99<sup>th</sup> Regular Session

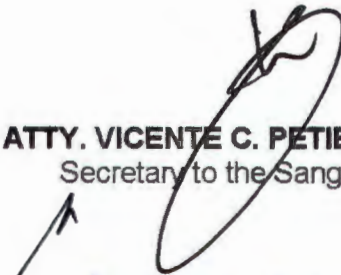
Comment: Passed.




**GREG G. GASATAYA**  
Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

**ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE III**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian



APPROVED:

June 17, 2015  


**MONICO O. PUENTEVELLA**  
City Mayor



VCP/HPL/jpb

SF  
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SECTION  
DATE 6/17/15 TIME 1:40PM  
BY: 