

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

**CITY ORDINANCE NO. 1021  
February 15, 2023**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR THE CREATION OF SISTER CITY OR TWINNING RELATIONS BETWEEN BACOLOD CITY AND EITHER NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL CITIES**

**WHEREAS**, Section 33 of the Local Government Code states that Local Government Units may, through appropriate ordinances, group themselves, consolidate, or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them;

**WHEREAS**, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 97-306 of November 25, 1997 sets forth the guidelines for national or international sister-city or town-twinning relationships and at the same time empowers the City of Bacolod to establish the direction and instruction as to appropriately create sister-city relationships;

**WHEREAS**, through-out time, local government partnerships have been beneficial and advantageous in various areas such as, but not limited to, trade and investments, information technology, health, agriculture, human development, sustainable tourism, environmental management, culture, and education;

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance shall serve to set guidelines in the future endeavor of fostering friendship, understanding, and cooperation with both national and international cities including municipalities;

**WHEREFORE, LET IT BE ORDAINED AS IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD IN SESSION THAT:**

**ARTICLE 1. SHORT TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as the "Sister-City or Twinning Ordinance".

**ARTICLE 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** It is the duty and responsibility of the City of Bacolod to establish the procedural approach in the creation of sister-city or twinning relationships with either national or international cities in order to constitute friendly, reciprocal, beneficial relationships and goodwill.

**ARTICLE 3. SCOPE AND APPLICATION.**

**Section 1.** Consideration and formalization of sister-city agreement between Bacolod City with other cities and municipalities, both national and international shall be the scope of this ordinance.

**ARTICLE 4. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS.**

**Section 1. NATIONAL OR FOREIGN CITIES** – The following shall be collated by the Sister City Committee and shall be endorsed and recommended, through the Local Chief Executive, to the Sanggunian for legislative approval and support:

- a) Official letter addressed to the City Mayor outlining the rationale for the proposed affiliation initiative;
- b) Local/Foreign Government Profile;
- c) Draft Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement, highlighting the proposed fields of partnership;
- d) List of Community Groups supporting the Town-Twinning Partnerships.

**Section 2.** Once the abovementioned documents are complied with, the Sangguniang Panlungsod in assembly shall pass a Resolution favorably approving the affiliation initiative and thereby authorizing the Local Chief Executive, or his duly authorized representative, to sign the Memorandum of Agreement or Understanding.

**ARTICLE 5. THE CREATION OF SISTER-CITY COMMITTEE.**

**Section 1.** The Sister-City Committee is hereby constituted for the implementation and monitoring of this Ordinance and shall be composed of the following:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Chairman</b>   | - City Mayor   |
| <b>Vice-Chair</b> | - Chairman, SP Committee on Tourism  |
| <b>Members</b>    | - City Tourism Officer<br>LEIPO<br>Representative of the Office of the City Administrator<br>Two representatives of any accredited academic institution<br>City Planning and Development Office<br>Liga ng mga Barangay<br>Two representatives from the Private Sector to be appointed by the City Mayor |

**Section 2.** The members as provided for in the immediately preceding section shall perform the following undertaking:

- a. Review all the documentary requirements;
- b. Set the parameters of the relationship that is mutual, realistic, and feasible;



- c. Initiate planning, goal setting, and evaluation to increase the potential benefits;
- d. Review every three (3) years to confirm or change the established relationships; and
- e. Recommend termination of inactive sister-city agreements.

**Section 3.** With regard to the existing relationships that were formulated, created, and established by previous administrations, the Committee shall heretofore be vested with the responsibility to review and assess existing national or local sisterhood city pacts. Further, it shall have recommendatory authority after assessing whether or not said relations need to be restored.

**ARTICLE 6. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If it is declared that a portion or all the provisions found in this Ordinance is unconstitutional, the same shall be inoperable. Except to the remainder not so affected which shall maintain in full force and effect.

**ARTICLE 7. REPEALING CLAUSE.** Any ordinances, rules and regulations, whether portions of the provisions or in its entirety which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

**ARTICLE 8. EFFECTIVITY.** This Ordinance shall take effect after its approval.

**CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:**

Affirmative:

Councilors : Jude Thaddeus A. Sayson, Israel P. Salanga, Em L. Ang, Vladimir S. Gonzalez, Renecito S. Novero, Jason Isidro S. Villarosa, Claudio Jesus Raymundo A. Puentevella, Simplicia Z. Distrito, Celia Matea R. Flor, Psyche Marie E. Sy, Lady Gles Gonzales-Pallen, Ayesha Joy Y. Villaflor.

Negative : N o n e .

Official Leave : Councilor Al Victor A. Espino.

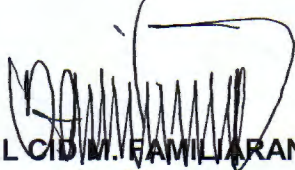
Absent : N o n e .

Author : Councilor Jason Isidro S. Villarosa.

Passed : February 15, 2023 (33<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Council).

Comments : P a s s e d .  
Councilor Cindy T. Rojas was not yet around when this ordinance was passed.

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**EL CID M. FAMILIARAN**  
Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:



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

APPROVED: February 27, 2023.



**ALFREDO ABELARDO B. BENITEZ**  
City Mayor

VCP/CGT/jbz

~~SERVICES SECTION~~  
2/27/2023  
~~SERVICES SECTION~~  
BY 