Republika Ng Pilipinas
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Lungsod ng Bacolod

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 1112
December 4, 2025

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, AND 10 OF CITY ORIDNANCE NO. 146, SERIES OF 1995 OR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR REGULATING MENDICANCY, PROVIDING PENALTIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO, AND FOR OTHHER PURPOSES, AND INTRODUCING NEW PROVISIONS THEREOF.

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Local Government Code posits that "Every local government unit shall 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. Within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall 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, Section 458 (v), Article III, Chapter III of Republic Act (R.A.) 7160 or the local government code states that "The Sangguniang Panlungsod, X X X X X shall: Enact ordinances intended to prevent, suppress and impose appropriate penalties for habitual drunkenness in public places, vagrancy, mendicancy, prostitution, establishment and maintenance of houses of ill repute, gambling and other prohibited games of chance, fraudulent devices and ways to obtain money or property, drug addiction, maintenance of drug dens, drug pushing, juvenile delinquency, the printing, distribution or exhibition of obscene or pornographic materials or publications, and such other activities inimical to the welfare and morals of the inhabitants of the city.

WHEREAS, City Ordinance 146, Series of 1995 or An Ordinance Establishing an Integrated Program for Regulating Mendicancy, Providing Penalties, Appropriating Funds Thereto, and for Other Purposes was approved on November 20, 1995 more or less thirty (30) years ago hence there is a necessity to amend the same to adapt to the present times;

WHEREAS, mendicancy erodes human dignity for the person begging and further in himself behavior which endangers life and property of society.

WHEREAS, mendicancy breeds crime, creates traffic hazards, endangers health and exposes mendicants to a life of ridicule, danger and degradation;

WHEREAS, there is a need to respond with compassion to this growing social problem of the city and to provide appropriate services to enable mendicants to meet their basic needs and develop self-reliance;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod, in session assembled that:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of City Ordinance No. 146, Series of 1995 as amended shall be read as:

Section 1. TITLE - An Ordinance Establishing an Integrated Program for Regulating Mendicancy in the City of Bacolod, Providing Penalties, Appropriating Funds Thereto, and for Other Purposes.

SECTION 2. Subsection (d) section 2 of City Ordinance No. 146, Series of 1995 as amended shall be read as:

d) Suspected Mentally-ill - refers to a person who shows behavior not considered normal in relation to age, sex and social norms, e.g. crying, laughing anytime, extremely dirty, unable to understand what is being said, melancholic and sometimes extremely violent.

SECTION 3. The title, subsection (c) and (d) of Section 5 of City Ordinance No. 146, Series of 1995 as amended shall be read as:

Section 5 - APPREHENSION, RESCUE, INTERVENTION OF AND SERVICES FOR PERSON FOUND BEGGING

c) Any Minor, aged 15 to below 18 years old, who is found begging and who acted with discernment shall be rescued, given intervention and shall be referred to the Center for minor offenders for appropriate assessment and evaluating after which on the basis of its findings to whether commit to the Girls home, Boys home or to be returned back to his/her family.

d) A suspected mentally-ill person found begging and roaming around the City streets of Bacolod shall be apprehended and shall be referred for confinement and treatment at the Bacolod City Mental Health Center and/or other Institutions that provide the same services with proper support and coordination with the DSSD.

SECTION 4. Subsection (a), (b) and (d) of Section 6 of City Ordinance No. 146, Series of 1995 as amended shall be read as:

a) An adult mendicant who shall be found begging in the street shall be imposed a fine of 1,000 pesos or by imprisonment for a period of 1 month or both at the discretion of the court.

b) A mendicant who continues to beg event after having been given rehabilitative services and considered a habitual mendicant shall be punished by a fine of 1,000 pesos or by imprisonment for a period of 6 months or both at the discretion of the court.

d) Any person who encourages or abets mendicancy by giving alms in the form of money directly to mendicants, exploited infants and minor in the streets, public roads, sidewalks, parks shall be imposed a fine of P500 in which a citation ticket will be issued to him/her by authorized personnel of the Bacolod City Mendicancy Management Division (BCMMD) and upon issuance of the citation ticket the said personnel is authorized to confiscate a Government-Issued Identification Card (ID) of the violator. If the violator is again caught for the second time for violating this provision of the ordinance, a fine of P1000 or by imprisonment for a period of one (1) day or both at the discretion of the court shall be imposed upon him.

That an additional subsection, subsection (e), shall be added to section 6 penalizing the following act:

e) A mendicant who shall be found begging in the street with the use of violence, threats, intimidation or force in begging shall be imposed a fine of 5,000 pesos or by imprisonment for a period of one (1) year, or both at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 5. That Section 7 of City Ordinance No. 146, Series of 1995 as amended shall be read as:

Section 7 - INFORMATION PROGRAM - The Bacolod City Communication's Office under the office of the City Mayor shall conduct a city wide educational and information program on this Ordinance by tapping Media Entities, the Association of Barangay Captains, Federation of the SK and Non-Government Organization to educate the public on the content of this Ordinance and prevent the community from *giving alms direct to mendicants but encourage the public to donate their money to* entities involved in the rehabilitation of these mendicants.

SECTION 6. That Section 8 of City Ordinance No. 146, Series of 1995 as amended shall be read as:

Section 8 - LOCAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES - The City of Bacolod through the DSSD shall tap the services and cooperation of existing Child Placement Centers, Street Children Drop-in Centers. Boys Home, Boys Protectory, Girls Home, Bacolod City Mental Health Center and the Negros Occidental Rehabilitation Center to provide an integrated development service and extend fund support to these entities for sustainable service delivery.

The City shall also include in the Development Plans establishment or additional Action Centers, Half-Way Homes for mendicants and the homeless either operated by the City or an accredited non-governmental organization.

Section 7. That Section 10 of City Ordinance 146, Series of 1995 as amended shall be read as:

Section 10 - FUND - The sum of P3,000,000.00 each year shall be sourced from the General Fund and/or Other Sources from the National Government Agencies, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and Other Private Organizations in order to implement the activities under this ordinance.

SECTION 8. That Sections 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 shall be added to Ordinance 147, Series of 1995, which are as follows:

Section 12 - BACOLOD CITY MENDICANCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION (BCMMD) - The Bacolod City Mendicancy Management Division (BCMMD) shall be a division operating under the supervision of the Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD) of the City Government of Bacolod.

The BCMMD shall serve as the lead office in the planning, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of programs, activities, and services aimed at the prevention, reduction, and management of mendicancy within the City of Bacolod.

Section 13 - PRIORITIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES BY THE BACOLOD CITY MENDICANCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION (BCMMD) TO RESCUED MENDICANTS. - Subject to verification of the eligibility of rescued mendicants by the BCMMD, rescued mendicants shall avail case management services from the BCMMD such as but not limited to assessment and referral, planning of intervention, rehabilitation, and reintegration and social protection.

Section 14 - INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON ANTI MENDICANCY TASK FORCE OF BACOLOD CITY - An Inter-Agency Committee on Anti Mendicancy Task Force of Bacolod City shall be composed of representatives from different line of government agencies and private sectors.

A. COMPOSITION.
The Inter-Agency Committee on Anti Mendicancy Task Force of Bacolod City shall be composed of the following:

a. Chairperson: City Mayor
b. Co-Chairperson: Chairperson on Social Services
c. Vice-Chairperson: Chairperson on Women and Children, Family & Childcare
d. Secretariat: Department of Social Services and Development
e. Members: Representative from:

1. SK Federation
2. Liga ng mga Barangay
3. City Administrator's Office
4. City Legal Office
5. Bacolod City Police Office
6. Women and Children Protection Desks Office
7. Department of Social Services and Development
8. City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office
9. Public Order and Safety Office
10. City Engineering Office

11. Bacolod City Communication's Office
12. City Civil Registrar's Office
13. Department of Education - Division of Bacolod City
14. Department of Interior and Local Government
15. City Cooperative and Livelihood Development Office
16. City Health Office
17. Bacolod City Mental Health Center
18. Urban Basic Service Division
19. Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital (CLMMRH) - Mental Health Unit
20. General Services Office
21. Social Development Center
22. Coast Guard Office
23. Bacolod Housing Authority
24. Public Affairs and Assistance Division
25. National Committee on Indigenous People
26. Commission on Human Rights

Representative from the following Private Sectors/NGOs

27. Home for People with Mental Disabilities
28. Transport Sector
29. Non-Profit Foundations working for the causes of disadvantaged children
30. Religious Sector
31. Funeral Homes
32. Home for the Aged
33. Psychological Clinic

B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The Inter-Agency Committee on Anti Mendicancy Task Force of Bacolod City shall assist the BCCMD in formulating local policies, strategies, and policies aimed at the prevention and eradication of mendicancy. It shall also help the BCCMD in implementing the provisions of this ordinance. Likewise, it also has the responsibility to recommend necessary ordinances, or amendments to existing ordinance and resolutions to the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod City for the purpose stated.

Section 15 - CREATION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE TASK FORCE FOR STREET-INVOLVED AND SUSPECTED MENTALLY ILL INDIVIDUALS - There is hereby created a Mental Health Response Task Force in coordination with the City Health Office (CHO) to address the rescue, assessment, referral, and care of suspected mentally ill individuals, particularly those found in public places or those encountered during anti-mendicancy operations.

a. Technical Working Group Composition:

Chairperson: Head, City Health Office (CHO)
Co-Chairperson: Head, Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD)

Members:
1. Bacolod City Mendicancy Management Division (BCMMD)
2. Representative, City Legal Office
3. Chief, Bacolod City Police Office (or designated officer)
4. Representative, City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO)
5. Representative, Liga ng mga Barangay
6. Mental health professionals (e.g., psychiatrist or psychologist from CHO or partner institution)
7. Representatives from accredited NGOs or mental health advocacy groups

Section 16 - DECLARATION OF ANTI-MENDICANCY CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK - In order to promote awareness, the last week of August of every year is hereby declared as "Anti-Mendicancy Consciousness Week" in Bacolod City.

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE –

If any part of this ordinance declared unconstitutional or unlawful, shall not affect the other parts or sections hereof

SECTION 10. REPEALING CLAUSE.

All previous ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.

This Ordinance shall take effect after being posted at prominent places in the city hall, for three (3) consecutive weeks immediately upon its approval as well as due publication in accordance with law.

CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:

Affirmative:

Councilors : Caesar Z. Distrito, Israel P. Salanga, Em L. Ang, Jude Thaddeus A. Sayson, Jason Isidro S. Villarosa, Celia Matea R. Flor, Dindo C. Ramos, Roberto M. Rojas, Wilson C. Gamboa, Jr., Psyche Marie E. Sy, Homer Q. Bais, Lady Gles Gonzales-Pallen, Danna Marie C. Barzo.

Official Travel : None.

Official Leave : None.

Main Author : Councilor Israel P. Salanga.

Co-author : Councilor Celia Matea R. Flor.

Passed : December 4, 2025 (23rd Regular Session of the 12th Council).

Comments : P a s s e d .

CLAUDIO JESUS RAYMUNDO A. PUENTEVELLA
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE III
Secretary to the Sanggunian

APPROVED: 10 DEC 2025

GREG G. GASATAYA
City Mayor

VCP/CGT/llt

SP LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SECTION
DATE: 01/06/2026 TIME: 9:15am