Republika Ng Pilipinas
TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
Lungsod ng Bacolod

Excerpt from the journal of the 58th Regular Session of the 12th Council of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, City of Bacolod held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at the Session Hall of Bacolod City Government Center.

PRESENT:

Vice Mayor Claudio Jesus Raymundo A. Puentevella	Presiding Officer
Councilor Al Victor A. Espino	Floor Leader
Councilor Caesar Z. Distrito	
Councilor Israel P. Salanga	
Councilor Em L. Ang	
Councilor Jude Thaddeus A. Sayson	
Councilor Jason Isidro S. Villarosa	
Councilor Celia Matea R. Flor	
Councilor Dindo C. Ramos	
Councilor Roberto M. Rojas	
Councilor Wilson C. Gamboa, Jr.	
Councilor Psyche Marie E. Sy	
Councilor Homer Q. Bais	
Councilor Danna Marie C. Barzo	

OFFICIAL LEAVE:
Councilor Lady Gles Gonzales-Pallen

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RESOLUTION NO. 948
Series of 2026

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BACOLODNON FILM DIRECTOR LAWRENCE "LAW" FAJARDO FOR HIS HISTORIC SELECTION TO THE PLATFORM SECTION OF THE 2026 TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (TIFF), THE FIRST FOR A FILIPINO FILM IN THE PROGRAM'S ELEVEN-YEAR HISTORY.

Upon motion of Councilor Em L. Ang, jointly seconded by Councilors Caesar Z. Distrito, Celia Matea R. Flor, and Wilson C. Gamboa, Jr., the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bacolod

RESOLVED, to pass the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City of Bacolod takes immense pride in nurturing and celebrating the talents of its native sons and daughters, particularly those who bring honor and international recognition to the City and to the country through excellence in the arts;

WHEREAS, Bacolodnon Film Director Lawrence "Law" Fajardo has been officially selected to compete in the Platform section of the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) with his sociopolitical drama "Silenced Nights";

WHEREAS, this selection marks a historic milestone for Philippine cinema, as it is the first Filipino film to enter TIFF's main juried competition since the Platform program was launched Eleven (11) years ago;

WHEREAS, the TIFF Platform section serves as the festival's competitive slate, showcasing Twelve (12) global works recognized for their distinct directorial vision, innovation, and auteur voice, with the winning non-English feature earning a Canadian $20,000 prize and a direct path for consideration in the Best International Feature Film category at the 99th Academy Awards;

WHEREAS, "Silenced Nights," written by Troy Espiritu and shot on location in Tondo's Happyland, tells the story of an ordinary laborer who becomes a witness to the killing of a teenage boy by the police, drawing inspiration from the tragic and historically significant 2017 death of Kian delos Santos during the Philippine government's war on drugs;

WHEREAS, through a raw cinema vérité style, the film courageously captures the realities of fear, institutional silence, and the personal cost of seeking truth under an oppressive system, reflecting the power of Philippine cinema to confront pressing social and political issues with honesty and artistic integrity;

WHEREAS, this achievement not only brings pride to the City of Bacolod but also elevates Philippine cinema on the world stage, inspiring a new generation of Filipino filmmakers, storytellers, and artists to pursue truth, courage, and excellence in their craft;

WHEREAS, this recognition is a testament to Director Fajardo's talent, dedication, and years of contribution to Philippine independent cinema, further cementing Bacolod City's growing reputation as a wellspring of exceptional artistic and creative talent;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to congratulate and commend Director Lawrence "Law" Fajardo for his historic selection to the Platform section of the 2026 Toronto International Film Festival, a distinction that brings immense pride to Bacolod City and to Philippine cinema as a whole;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this Council extends its full support and encouragement to Director Fajardo as "Silenced Nights" competes on the world stage, and expresses its hope that this recognition will pave the way for greater opportunities for Filipino filmmakers, particularly those from Bacolod City and Negros Occidental;

RESOLVED FURTHERMORE, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to Director Lawrence "Law" Fajardo, and to such other individuals and Offices deemed appropriate, for their information and appropriate action.

CARRIED BY THE VOTE OF:

Affirmative:

Councilors : Caesar Z. Distrito, 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., Homer Q. Bais, Psyche Marie E. Sy, Al Victor A. Espino, Danna Marie C. Barzo

Negative : None.

Comments : P a s s e d .
Councilor Israel P. Salanga was not around when this resolution was passed

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CLAUDIO JESUS RAYMUNDO A. PUENTEVELLA
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

ATTY. VICENTE C. PETIERRE III
Secretary to the Sanggunian

VCP/CGT/**rte**