



Republic of the Philippines
City of Roxas
Office Of The Sangguniang Panlungsod



EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE HONORABLE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF ROXAS, HELD AT THE SP SESSION HALL ON NOVEMBER 23, 2021.

PRESENT: Hon. Jericho Angel L. Celino ... Sanggunian Member I
Acting Presiding Officer
Hon. Midelo D. Ocampo ... Sanggunian Member I
Hon. Cesar S. Yap, Jr. ... Sanggunian Member I
Hon. Trina Marie A. Ignacio ... Sanggunian Member I
Hon. Paul Ivan R. Baticados ... Sanggunian Member I
Hon. Albert Gregory Y. Potato ... Sanggunian Member I
Hon. Roberto V. Ignacio ... Sanggunian Member I
Hon. Virgilio A. Santos, Jr. (ABC Rep) ... Sanggunian Member I
Hon. Kriza V. Fernando (SK Rep) ... Sanggunian Member I

ABSENT:
Hon. Erwin B. Sicad ... Vice Mayor I (Sick Leave)
Hon. John Paul J. Arcenas ... Sanggunian Member I (Vac. Leave)
Hon. Moreno A. Gonzaga ... Sanggunian Member I (Sick Leave)
Hon. Corazon B. Tiangco ... Sanggunian Member I (Sick Leave)

ORDINANCE NO. 075 – 2021

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MULTI-PLATFORM EMERGENCY HELPLINE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AND THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN ROXAS CITY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Authored By: Hon. Trina Marie A. Ignacio
Duly Seconded Hon. Paul Ivan R. Baticados

WHEREAS, Section 458 (a) of the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) states that the Sangguniang Panlungsod, as the legislative body of the city, shall enact ordinances, approve resolution and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the city and its inhabitants, pursuant to Sec. 16 of this Code and in proper exercise of the corporate powers of the city as provided for under Sec. 22 of this Code;

WHEREAS, Section 2 of RA 9262 provides that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect of human rights. The State also recognizes the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security;

WHEREAS, despite the existing laws, the cases of abuse in the City of Roxas still exist. From 2018 up to 2020, the City Social Welfare Development Office has recorded 286 cases of abuse, while the Roxas City PNP through its Women and Children Protection Desk, recorded a total of 166 cases of abuse covering the same period. Collectively, there is an average of 150 cases of abuse in the City of Roxas every year;

WHEREAS, the cases of abuse in Roxas City actually filed at our Regional Trails Court (Branch 14) for the year 2020 sums up to a total of only 22 cases;

WHEREAS, a comparison between the 150 average annual cases and the 22 cases actually filed in court shows that 85.33% are not filed in court, which might mean that 85.33% of abusers are not being held legally liable and that these cases may recur;

WHEREAS, along with the rampant cases of domestic abuse in the City, suicide is also a problem that needs immediate action. According to the Roxas City Police Station, there have been a total of 24 recorded suicide cases in the City of Roxas from 2018 up to July 22, 2020. Twelve (12) of them, or a total of 50% are young adults in the 17-30 years age group;

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WHEREAS, Article II, Section 24 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building;

WHEREAS, there is a need to create a multi-platform helpline wherein cases of violence against women and children and suicidal ideations may be reported; and

WHEREAS, such service may be utilized to raise awareness for the reliefs provided for by law in favor of our women, children and their families.

Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod, in session that:

Section 1. Short Title.

This Ordinance shall be known as **“The Crisis and Suicide Helpline Ordinance of Roxas City.”**

Section 2. Purpose.

It shall be the purpose of this ordinance to promote the protection of Roxas City residents by providing a multi-platform mechanism towards the promotion of the general welfare of our women, children and their families by making use of various communication technologies in the delivery of our CSWDO’s services with regard to mental health and child & youth welfare:

- a) an Emergency Helpline that shall be made available to Roxas City residents who are experiencing, or at the risk of experiencing violence and abuse;
- b) a Suicide Prevention Helpline for people having suicidal ideations; and
- c) a referral network to other government and non-government agencies for other services

Section 3. Definition of Terms.

- a) **Multi-Platform** refers to the LGU’s choice of various platforms, including, but not limited to mobile and landline phones, an online website, a Facebook Page, Messenger/Viber/Whatsapp accounts, to be instituted pursuant to this ordinance.
- b) **Children** refers to any person under the age of eighteen (18) years of age who are in need of special protection and also mentally challenged individuals above the age of 18 who may be exposed to acts of violence;
- c) **Suicidal ideations**, often called suicidal thoughts or ideas, is a broad term used to describe a range of contemplations, wishes and preoccupations with death and suicide;

Section 4. Scope.

This Ordinance shall cover all Roxas City residents: women, children and their families who are experiencing or at the risk of experiencing violence, abuse or suicidal ideations.

Section 5. Child Protection Program. The multi-platform helpline shall host a reporting mechanism for acts committed against children, as follows:

- a) Sexual Abuse;
- b) Physical Abuse;
- c) Neglect;
- d) Abandonment;
- e) Trafficking in Person;



- f) Street Children;
- g) Child Labor;
- h) Child in Conflict with the Law;
- i) Victims of Illegal Recruitment;
- j) Sexual Exploitation;
- k) Children with Disability;
- l) Children with Ethnic/Cultural Communities;
- m) Any person with the mental capacity of below 18;
- n) Mentally Challenged Children;
- o) Children at Risk; and
- p) Any other analogous circumstances

Section 6. Program for the Protection of Women. The multi-platform helpline shall host a reporting mechanism for acts committed against women, as follows:

- a) Violence against Women and Children (VAWC)
- b) Trafficking in Person
- c) Women with Disability
- d) Women in Extremely Difficult Circumstances (WEDC)
- e) Any other analogous circumstances

Section 7. Communication Channels.

Various platforms, including, but not limited to mobile and landline phones, an online website and/or a link to the LGU's official website, a Facebook Page, Messenger/Viber/Whatsapp accounts, and other which may be deemed necessary related thereto shall be instituted to host a reporting mechanism for acts committed against women and children, report regarding suicidal ideations and other related concerns for the protection of our constituents including the remedies provided for by law in the enforcement thereof.

Section 8. Operation Hours.

The online platform shall be maintained by CSDWO personnel and shall be made available to our constituents at a *minimum* of at least two (2) 8 hour shift during weekdays to a maximum of three (3) 8 hours shift on a daily basis, seven (7) days a week, as needed.

Section 9. Implementing Rules and Operational Guidelines.

The implementing rules and operational guidelines or revisions thereto shall be prepared by the Roxas CSWDO and approved by the City Mayor. A copy of the approved document/s shall be forwarded to the Roxas City Sangguniang Panlungsod within fifteen (15) days upon approval.

Section 10. Local Enforcement Agencies.

The CSWDO of the City of Roxas, is hereby designated to supervise the multi-platform helpline and shall be responsible for maintaining the services provided therein to be accessible to the general public at all times.

For purposes of this Ordinance, the Roxas City ICT, the DRRMO, Roxas City Health, local Barangay Units, PNP and all other enforcement agencies to be determined by the Local Executive, are hereby called upon to assist in the implementation of this Ordinance by means of providing accessible and timely response in the furtherance of this Ordinance.

Section 11. Funding.

The amount necessary for the proper execution of this Ordinance shall be charged against the Children's Fund, Gender and Development (GAD) Fund and other local sources of the General Fund of Roxas City.

Section 12. Mandatory Dissemination.

The Roxas CSWDO shall be required to disseminate the existence of this Ordinance including its implementing rules and operational guidelines, as necessary, to the following:

- a) All local enforcement agencies concerned
- b) All Education Institutions located in Roxas City
- c) All 47 Barangays in Roxas City.
- d) Neighboring Municipalities
- e) Roxas City Council for the Protection of Children
- f) Roxas City GAD Focal Point system
- g) Other stakeholders, personalities, institutions, organizations or agencies concerned

Section 13. Penal Provision for abuse of Emergency Helpline.

It shall be unlawful for any person to submit false or misleading reports. Any person who shall do so in violation of this ordinance shall be penalized by either a fine of **Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)** or **imprisonment of 6 months or both by the discretion of the court.**

Section 14. Separability Clause.

If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Ordinance is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 15. Repealing and Amendatory Clause.

All Ordinance, Resolutions, Executive Orders or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modifies or amended accordingly.

Section 16. Effectivity.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after its publication.

Unanimously Approved.

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I hereby certify that this Ordinance was duly passed and approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Roxas City on the date herein stated.

ATTESTED:

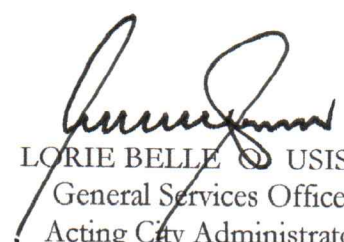

JERICHO ANGEL L. CELINO
SP Member I
Acting Presiding Officer

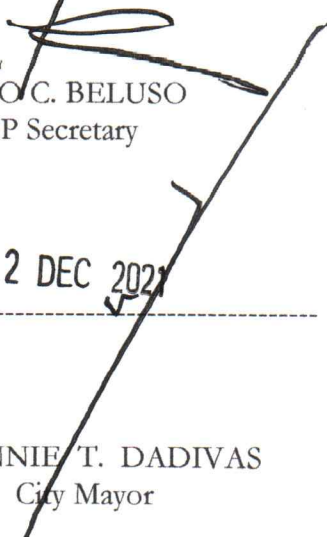

DINO C. BELUSO
SP Secretary

22 DEC 2021

APPROVED:-----

ATTESTED:


LORIE BELLE USISON
General Services Officer
Acting City Administrator


RONNIE T. DADIVAS
City Mayor