

Province of Cavite CITY OF GENERAL TRIAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 20-14 (GENERAL)

Author

: SP Member Kristine Jane M. Perdito-Barison

Chair, Committee on Health, Nutrition & Population

Sponsors

: SP Member Vivencio Q. Lozares, Jr. SP Member Jonas Glyn P. Labuguen SP Member Clarissel J. Campaña-Moral SP Member J-M Vergel M. Columna

SP Member Hernando M. Granados

SP Member Gary A. Grepo

SP Member Jowie S. Carampot SP Member Isagani L. Culanding

SP Member Isagani L. Culanding SP Member Walter C. Martinez SP Member Florencio D. Ayos

SP Member Richard R. Parin SP Member Alfredo S. Ching

SP Member Reienel R. Ferrer

PROHIBITING ANY PERSON FROM DISCRIMINATING AGAINST OR COMMITTING ANY ACT WHICH CAUSES STIGMA, DISGRACE, SHAME, HUMILIATION, AND HARASSMENT TO A PERSON INFECTED, UNDER MONITORING OR INVESTIGATION, HEALTH WORKERS, AND OTHER FRONTLINERS DUE TO THE COVID-19, AND IMPOSING THE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES THEREIN.

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;

WHEREAS, it is also the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, the general welfare clause, Section 16, of the Local Government Code states that Every local government unit shall, within their respective territorial jurisdictions, ensure and support, among other things, the promotion of health and safety, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) recently warned the public against discrimination to persons reported to have contracted COVID-19 as well as PUIs, PUMs including health workers and emergency workers who are among those in the front lines of the battle against the rapidly spreading Covid-19. The DOH further stated "that with the world confronted with a virus with little information known, it is human to be afraid. But we must not allow hysteria and paranoia to result in irrational treatment of people";

WHEREAS, Stigmatization could drive people to hide the illness to avoid discrimination or prevent people from seeking health care immediately and discourage them from adopting healthy behaviors;

WHEREAS, the City Government of General Trias ought to sustain the normalcy and order amidst the crisis and protect the constituents from possible unjust discrimination brought about by fear and panic by the public;

WHEREAS, the City Government firmly believes that in this most trying times, Gentriseños can be said to be one of the most empathetic and loving brothers and sisters to each one. It is with unity not divisiveness that we will conquer this Covid-19 pandemic;

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CITY OF GENERAL TRIAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Page 2 of City Ordinance No. 20-14 (General):

NOW THEREFORE, on the motion of SP Member Kristine Jane M. Perdito-Barison duly seconded by SP Member Viviencio Q. Lozares, Jr.,

Be it ordained by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of General Trias, that:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Anti-COVID-19 Discrimination Ordinance in the City of General Trias".

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS -

a. Discrimination is when a person withholds from, excludes, restricts, curtails, demeans human dignity or otherwise impairs the recognition, enjoyment and/or exercise of a right or basic freedom, of another, to which others similarly situated or circumstanced are extended or which they are allowed to enjoy or exercise by relevant protocols, guidelines, and rules issued by the State through the Department of Health, the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases ("IATF-EID), and such other authorized agencies of the government relative to measures against the COVID-19 pandemic.

It also includes any act that causes or tends to cause any stigma, disgrace, shame, humiliation, harassment to persons afflicted with or have recovered from COVID-19, persons under investigation, and persons under monitoring, on the basis of their status as such,

- b. Persons Infected, Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs) are those defined by the protocols and guideline of the Department of Health (DOH),
- c. Health Workers are those who deliver the care and services to the sick and ailing, either directly or indirectly. Health workers include, among others, doctors, nurses, hospital and clinic aides, laboratory technicians, barangay health workers, barangay nutrition scholars and barangay service point officers or barangay population officers, and
- d. Frontliners are those rendering emergency frontline services, border control and other critical services. Frontliners include, among others, officers and members of the PNP, barangay officials, personnel, volunteers and those who are working in the private establishment providing basic necessities and such activities related to food and medicine production, i.e. public markets, supermarkets, groceries, convenient stores, hospitals, medical clinics, pharmacies and drug stores, food preparation and delivery services, water-refilling stations, manufacturing and processing plants of basic food products and medicines, banks, money transfer services, power, energy, telecommunications and water supplies and other related facilities.

SECTION 3. ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION -

It shall be unlawful for any person, whether natural or juridical, whether verbally, in writing, or otherwise, to commit any of the following acts of discrimination and are therefore punishable:

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CITY OF GENERAL TRIAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Page 3 of City Ordinance No. 20-14 (General):

- a. To curtail or impair the right, or prevent a person infected, PUIs and PUMs due to Covid-19 from exercising a right, or withholding access to services, goods, benefits, or privileges, where their exercise of such right and access to goods, services, benefits, and privileges are not otherwise withheld, prohibited, or restricted by relevant protocols, guidelines, and rules issued by the State through the Department of Health, the IATF-EID, or authorized agencies of the government relative to the COVID-19 pandemic,
- b. To make utterances which cause or tend to cause stigma, disgrace, shame, humiliation, harassment or otherwise discriminating against a person infected, PUIs and PUMs due to Covid-19 as defined in the immediately preceding section, and
- c. To publicly claim, post on social media, spread or announce that a person is infected, is under investigation or monitoring due to COVID-19 whether or not the same has been confirmed or validated from the list given by authorized proper health officials, agency or department.

It shall be unlawful for any public/authorized officer to commit the following acts:

- d. Unauthorized disclosure of private and confidential information pertaining to a patient's medical condition or treatment, and
- e. Refuse or fails to give assistance to a person infected, PUIs, PUM, health worker or frontliner who intends to go to medical facilities or place of assignment and return to his/her place of residence, especially for patient, after obtaining clearance of the Covid-19 infection from the proper health officials.

Except:

- f. When disclosure of confidential information was made to comply with a legal order issued by a court of law with competent jurisdiction,
- g. When the patient concerned waived his/her right to privacy or voluntarily agrees to disclose the confidential information, and
- h. For contact tracing by authorized personnel and other medical purposes.

SECTION 4. PERSONS LIABLE – Any person, natural or juridical, who commits any of the acts herein prohibited and enumerated in the immediately preceding section shall be liable therefore and penalized accordingly, provided that in case of a juridical person such as, but not limited to, corporations, associations, partnerships, educational or vocational institutions, whether public or private, the President, General Manager, Corporate Secretary or person with related interest therein shall be held liable.

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CITY OF GENERAL TRIAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Page 4 of City Ordinance No. 20-14 (General):

SECTION. 5. PENALTIES – Any person in violation of this Ordinances shall be fined with Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5 000.00) or imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or both at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 6. ENFORCEMENT OR IMPLEMENTATION – This Ordinance shall be implemented by the Office to the City Mayor thru the Office of the City Health Officer, Office of the Legal Officer, Barangay elected officials, Philippine National Police (PNP) and other office or personnel as may be deputized by the Local Chief Executive.

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) – While this Ordinance and the provisions hereof are already operative upon its effectivity, the City Mayor, City Health Office and the Local Nutrition Council may, within ninety (90) days, issue the appropriate and relevant rules and regulation for its implementation.

SECTION. 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof, not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. CONSTRUCTION – Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as defeating, qualifying, modifying, or superseding in any way, manner, or extent the guidelines, rules, and protocols issued by the Department of Health, by the IATF-EID, or by authorized agencies of the Government on the proper handling, procedure, and management response for PUIs, PUMs, and persons found afflicted with or undergoing treatment for or have recovered from the COVID-19 virus.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE - This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

ORDAINED under THIRD/FINAL READING on 01 APRIL 2020.

JONAS GLYN P. LABUGUEN

SP Member

GARY A. GREPO
SP Member

CLARISSEL J. CAMPAÑA-MORAL

SP Member

JOWIE S CARAMPOT

SP Member

KRISTINE JANE M. PERDITO-BARISON

SP Member

ISAGANI L. CULANDING

SP Member

J-M VERGEL M. COLUMNA SP Member

VA

WALTER C. MARTINEZ

SP Member

FLORENCIO D. AYOS

SP Member

VIVENCIO Q. LOZARES, JR.

SP Member

RICHARD R. PARI

SP Member

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CITY OF GENERAL TRIAS

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Page 5 of City Ordinance No. 20-14 (General):

HERNANDO M. GRANADOS SP Member

ALFREDO S. CHING SP Member/LNB President

REIEWEL R. FERRER SP Member/SKF President

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:

WENCESLAO P. CAMINGAY Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:

MAURITO C. SISON City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

ANTONIO A. FERRER City Mayor

wpc/app/dga