



Republic of the Philippines  
**QUEZON CITY COUNCIL**  
Quezon City  
22<sup>nd</sup> City Council

PO22CC-187

38<sup>th</sup> Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- 3212, S-2023

**AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE GUIDELINES OF ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION FOR THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SYMBOLIC KEY TO THE CITY**

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*Introduced by Councilors ALY MEDALLA and DAVE C. VALMOCINA*

*Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Joseph P. Juico, Nikki V. Crisologo, Fernando Miguel "Mikey" F. Belmonte, Candy A. Medina, Tatay Rannie Z. Ludovica, Godofredo T. Liban II, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Geleen "Dok G" G. Lumbad, Albert Alvin "Chuckie" L. Antonio III, Don S. De Leon, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Atty. Anton L. Reyes, Edgar "Egay" G. Yap, Imee A. Rillo, Raquel S. Malañgen, Irene R. Belmonte, Nanette Castelo-Daza, Marra C. Suntay, Joseph Joe Visaya, Alfred Vargas, MPA, Ram V. Medalla, Shaira "Shay" L. Liban, Aiko S. Melendez, Mutya Castelo, Maria Eleanor "Doc Ellie" R. Juan, O.D., Kristine Alexia R. Matias, Eric Z. Medina, Emmanuel Banjo A. Pilar, Vito Sotto Generoso, Victor "Vic" Bernardo, Alfredo "Freddy" Roxas and Julian Marcus D. Trono*

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*WHEREAS, Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that the local government units shall endeavor to be self-reliant and shall continue exercising the powers and discharging the duties and functions currently vested upon them. They shall also discharge the functions and responsibilities of national agencies and offices devolved to them pursuant to this Code;*

*WHEREAS, the Key to the City or Freedom to the City is defined to be an honor bestowed by a city to a particular person with exemplary background. It is given to someone who has done tremendous good work within the city or has brought pride to the city. It also recognizes prominent individuals or those who live, were born in the city or have done extraordinary work to society;*

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WHEREAS, during the Medieval times, it was an English custom for the City to award the Key to the City to distinguished guests as a gesture of honor and welcome into the City.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. This Ordinance shall otherwise be known as the "Keys to the City Ordinance".

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. - It is hereby declared the policy of the City to provide for the guidelines in awarding the commemorative symbol of the Keys to the City to individuals, organizations and/or entities who have brought significant pride to Quezon City.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. -

- a. Key to the City - It is a symbolic representation of the City to valuable members of the community who were able to bring recognition into the City. It is an honor recognizing a significant contribution to public life that has enhanced the reputation of the City, both nationally and internationally.
- b. Recipient - An individual, organization and/or entity who/that will receive the symbolic Key from the City.
- c. Eligibility - It is a set of standards in identifying qualified recipients of the Key to the City.

SECTION 4. OBJECTIVE. - The Ordinance shall be geared towards acknowledging excellence in service to the City and promoting public service through various nation-building initiatives.

SECTION 5. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS OF THE KEYS TO THE CITY. - The following are eligible recipients of the Keys to the City, provided that, they are an outstanding member of society and can become a role model to the citizens of Quezon City.

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- a. *Bona fide citizens of Quezon City and/or those who consider Quezon City as their domicile with an extraordinary contribution, but not limited, to the following fields:*
  - i. *Artistic and Cultural Endeavors;*
  - ii. *Business, Economic Growth and Prosperity;*
  - iii. *Charitable Work;*
  - iv. *Improvement to the Built and Natural Environment;*
  - v. *Religious and Spiritual Life;*
  - vi. *Sports Activities; and*
  - vii. *Civic Service.*
- b. *Foreign and local dignitaries (Embassy Ambassadors, Cabinet Members, Chief Executives from other Local Government Units (LGUs), etc.), especially those visiting Quezon City for the first time.*

**SECTION 6. SELECTION PROCESS OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE KEY TO THE CITY.** - *The recipients of the Key to the City must be carefully identified and reviewed by the City Tourism Department under the qualifications stated, but not limited to, those indicated in Section 5 of this Ordinance, under the discretion of the City Tourism Department:*

- a. *Selection must be done through the endorsement of at least one (1) official of the City Government.*

*Recommendation will be submitted to the Office of the City Mayor for the consideration of the City Tourism Department and for the assessment of the qualifications and the significance of the contribution to the City.*

- b. *The selected individual, organization and/or entity must remain confidential until an official announcement has been made by the Committee.*

*Provided that, eligible recipients under Section 5(b) of this Ordinance need not undergo the above selection process, being conferred a Key to the City as an honorary distinction for public service, and a symbol of acceptance and hospitality. The Key to the City shall be conferred during their visit and not outside Quezon City. Provided further, that the City Mayor has the prerogative to identify a recipient without undergoing the above process.*

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**SECTION 7. LIMITATIONS TO THE SELECTION OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE KEY TO THE CITY.** - *The following are the limitations in awarding the Keys to the City:*

- a. *As this is one of the highest honors that the City Government can award, the City Tourism Department must sparingly choose eligible recipients of the Key to the City.*
- b. *Individuals, organizations and/or entities cannot nominate themselves to become recipients of the Key to the City.*
- c. *An individual, organization and/or entity can only be awarded the Key to the City once.*
- d. *In the event that the recipient would dishonor the Key to the City, it is under the discretion of the City Mayor to discredit the award to the recipient.*

**SECTION 8. AWARDING OF THE KEY TO THE CITY.** - *The actual awarding of the Key to the City to the qualified recipient/s shall at (all times or whenever practicable) be made within the territorial jurisdiction of the Quezon City.*

**SECTION 9. DESIGN OF THE KEY.** - *Production of the Key to the City shall be produced by the local artists of Quezon City that shall reflect the beauty and vitality of the City in its design. The approval of said design shall be under the purview of the City Tourism Department with the concurrence of the City Administrator.*

**SECTION 10. APPROPRIATION.** - *The production of the Key to the City must be subject to the availability of funds of the City.*

**SECTION 11. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** - *If any part or section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional for any reason whatsoever, such declaration shall not in any way affect the other parts or sections.*

**SECTION 12. REPEALING CLAUSE.** - *All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, rules, regulations, local and administrative issuances, or any provision thereof, which are contrary or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.*

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*SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.*


*ENACTED: August 14, 2023.*

  
GIAN G. SOTTO  
City Vice Mayor  
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

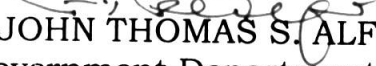
  
ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III  
City Government Department Head III  
(City Council Secretary)

APPROVED: SEP 14 2023

  
MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE  
City Mayor

**CERTIFICATION**

*This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on August 14, 2023 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on August 22, 2023.*

  
ATTY. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS, III  
City Government Department Head III  
(City Council Secretary)



