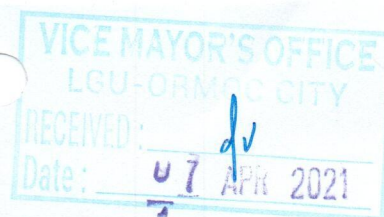
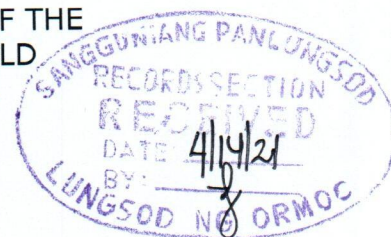


REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD
LUNGSOD NG ORMOC



EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FIFTEENTH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD NG ORMOC HELD
AT THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD SESSION HALL,
ORMOC CITY HALL BUILDING
ON APRIL 06, 2021



PRESENT:

Leo Carmelo L. Locsin, Jr.
Tomas R. Serafica,
Nolito M. Quilang,
Eusebio Gerardo S. Penserga,
Jasper M. Lucero,
Peter M. Rodriguez,
Vincent L. Rama,
Gregorio G. Yrastorza III,
Lalaine A. Marcos,
Esteban V. Laurente,

City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer
SP Member
SP Member, Majority Floor Leader
SP Member
SP Member
SP Member
SP Member
SP Member
SP Member

Ex-Officio SP Member, Chapter President,
Liga ng mga Barangay ng Ormoc

Joan Marbie C. Simbajon,
Panlungsod na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan ng Ormoc

Ex-Officio SP Member, Chapter President,
Panlungsod na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan ng Ormoc

ON LEAVE:

Benjamin S. Pongos, Jr.,
Roiland H. Villasencio,

SP Member
SP Member

PREFATORY STATEMENT

WHEREAS, it is evident that our ecosystem is already suffering from damage directly and indirectly because of our actions and through what we invent or use. In one way or another, we are also affected because of the potential hazards that may be caused by man-made objects, among them the colorful and beautiful helium balloons and sky lanterns.

WHEREAS, although we respect tradition, culture and practices, there is no denying that such objects or inventions used for the celebration of such undertakings can cause a toll on the immediate surroundings: be it fire hazards, smoke hazards, and other kinds of pollution and dangers it can wreak on our immediate environment.

WHEREAS, it is now of trend that sky lanterns and balloons are now widely used as accessories to hold celebrations of varying sorts. Sky lanterns look beautiful, no doubt, but when a sky lantern's flame is still alight even after landing, it can be a fire hazard. It can cause forest fires, and also fires in urban and rural residential areas. If spent sky lanterns land in the sea, the residue oil can potentially pollute the water and harm marine life.

WHEREAS, helium balloons, on the other hand, that are released to the sky are also pollutive. These balloons, which are made of rubber or latex, look beautiful when flown but are can be deadly when it lands on the sea and can poison and choke marine life and can affect the ecology. It has been also known to cause litter on land.

WHEREAS, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has adopted the policy that the intentional release of balloons into the atmosphere is a violation of Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which has been adopted by the Local Government of Ormoc through the Ormoc City Solid Waste Management Ordinance of 2017. It can also be considered as a Single-Use Plastic Product which the Ormoc City Single-Use Plastic Products Ordinance of 2021 aims to regulate.

WHEREAS, due to the increasing danger of fire hazards and ecosystem pollution, it is now high time that these problems should be prevented and regulated, with justified and legal exemptions, starting with the things that people use regularly, like sky lanterns and released balloons.

WHEREFORE, on motion of SP Member Lalaine A. Marcos, Chairperson, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources & Energy Conservation, severally seconded by SP Members Nolito M. Quilang, Jasper M. Lucero, Joan Marbie C. Simbajon, Esteban V. Laurente, Gregorio G. Yrastorza, III and Benjamin S. Pongos, Jr.; be it

RESOLVED, to enact:

ORDINANCE NO. 059
(Series of 2021)

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE INTENTIONAL
RELEASE OF SKY LANTERNS AND HELIUM BALLOONS
IN ORMOC CITY.**

BE IT ENACTED by the 15th Sangguniang Panlungsod of Ormoc in regular session assembled that:

SECTION 1. TITLE – This Ordinance shall be known as “**An Ordinance Banning the Intentional Release of Sky Lanterns and Balloons in Ormoc City**”.

SECTION 2. POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES – It is hereby declared that the Local Government of Ormoc City values the safety of the City’s infrastructure and ecosystem. Towards this end, the local government shall give high priority to the enactment of measures and development of programs that will promote knowledge about pollution, the safety of our infrastructure and the protection and conservation of our ecosystem.

The Local Government of Ormoc recognizes its vital role in addressing the problem of fire hazards and pollution wrought by certain objects used for celebrations and recreation, at the local level by instituting policies and programs to prevent and protect the environment.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS – As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- a) **Sky lantern** – a lantern designed to float up into the air when lit, typically consisting of a rice paper shell over a bamboo or wire frame, illuminated by a small candle or any other naked flame at its open base which also causes the lantern to rise by heating the air inside the shell.

- b) **Balloon** -a small colored rubber or plastic bag which is inflated with air and then sealed at the neck, used as a child's toy or a decoration.
- c) **Hazard** – a danger or risk.
- d) **Pollution** – The presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects.
- e) **Releasing** – allowing or enabling to escape from confinement; allowing to flow or fly freely.

SECTION 4. ACTS OF ILLEGAL RELEASING OF SKY LANTERNS AND BALLOONS – It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical to intentionally releasing sky lanterns and balloons anywhere within the territorial jurisdiction of LGU.

SECTION 5. EXEMPTIONS. This Ordinance will not apply to:

- a) Balloons which are used for scientific instrumentation during the performance of an experiment or a testing procedure or by a person on behalf of a government agency or pursuant to a governmental contract for scientific or meteorological purposes, provided there is due notice made to the LGU-Ormoc's Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO);
- b) Hot Air Balloons that are recovered after launching;
- c) Balloons released indoors.

SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTING OFFICES – The LGU – Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO), the Barangays, and the Ormoc City Police Office (OCPO) are hereby directed to implement or enforce this Ordinance.

SECTION 7. PENALTIES – Any individual, event or group organizer found guilty of violating the foregoing provisions shall be imposed a fine of **FOUR THOUSAND PHILIPPINE PESOS (PHP4,000.00)**.

The Offender may opt to pay an administrative fine of **TWO THOUSAND PHILIPPINE PESOS (PHP2,000.00)**.

SECTION 8. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Ordinance is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE – Any provision/s of an ordinance, rules, and regulations and/or part/s thereof inconsistent with the provision/s of this ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

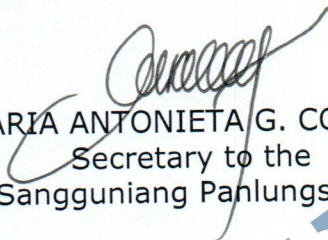
SECTION 10. EFFECTIVITY - This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication.

ENACTED, April 06, 2021.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish copies of this ordinance each to the City Mayor Richard I. Gomez, the City Administrator; the City Legal Officer; the City Treasurer; ENRO; OCPO; the City Agriculture Office – Fisheries Division; the City Local Government Operations Officer-DILG; and other offices concerned;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above ordinance.


MARIA ANTONIETA G. CO HAT
Secretary to the
Sangguniang Pahlungsod

ATTESTED:


LEO CARMELO L. LOCSIN, JR.
City Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


RICHARD I. GOMEZ
City Mayor
13 APR 2021
(Date)