

deservingly at that, for our cherished senior citizens. No less than the Constitution mandates that there shall be priority for the needs of the elderly. The National Legislature has enacted quite a number of statutes advancing and promoting the welfare of the Senior Citizens, one of which is Republic Act No. 9994 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" which aims to establish programs beneficial to the senior citizens.

In consonance with said noble thrust and policy, the Sangguniang Panlungsod rig Ormoc also enacted Ordinance No. 184 otherwise known as the "Birthday Gift Ordinance for Senior Citizens of Ormoc City", which sought to distribute ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PHILIPPINE PESOS (PhP 1,500.00) on the birth anniversaries of senior citizens of the City.

A good number of senior citizens, however, have conveyed their predicament in complying with some stringent requirements imposed by said Ordinance for availment of their birthday gifts, chief of which is the requirement that their names should be reflected in the 2013 COMELEC Voters List as certified by the local COMELEC Office. It was observed that many of senior citizens were unable to register and vote due to poor health, physical disability and other incapacities not uncommon among the elderly –leading to a heartbreaking consequence of inability to avail of their birthday gifts.

In this connection, there is no other true and sound remedy to alleviate the plight of our senior citizens other than to actually demonstrate the care and sensitivity due them at their advance stage of life by eliminating some hindrances in the availment of their birthday gifts thru the necessary amendments of Ordinance No. 184.

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Ord. No. 027

WHEREFORE, on joint motion of Honorable SP Members Vincent L. Rama, Chairman of Social Welfare, Senior Citizens, Women and Family, and Benjamin S. Pongos Jr., Chairman, Committee on Laws and Ordinances, severally seconded by the Honorable SP Members Tomas R. Serafica, Mario M. Rodriguez, Ruben R. Capahi, Eusebio Gerardo S. Penserga and John Eulalio Nepomuceno O. Aparis II; be it

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to pass and enact:

ORDINANCE NO. 027

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CITY ORDINANCE NO. 184, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A BIRTHDAY GIFT TO BONA FIDE SENIOR CITIZEN RESIDENTS OF ORMOC CITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE $13^{\rm TH}$ SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD NG ORMOC, in session assembled: that –

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Ordinance No. 184 is amended to read as follows;

"Section 4. For the availment of the gift provided for in the preceding section, the Senior Citizens –

- 1. Must be a senior citizen or elderly as defined in RA No. 9994 otherwise known as "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010";
- 2. The Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), Ormoc City is mandated to process the giving of birthday gift to qualified senior citizens of Ormoc City. To this effect, OSCA must monitor the whereabouts of the registered senior citizens of Ormoc City in order to make sure that they are qualified under the Ordinance and shall make an annual report of those who have remained as residents of Ormoc City, those who have permanently transferred to another place, and those who have died;

Must be a bona fide resident of Ormoc City for three (3) continuous years of actual residence prior to the availment of the benefit;

His/her mame must appear in the roster of Senior Citizens in the OSCA Ormoc City.

5. For purposes of claiming the birthday gift, the claimant shall apply personally or through a representative to OSCA Ormoc City within thirty (30) days before and after his/her date of birth. If claim is made thru a representative, a simple authorization letter signed by the concerned senior citizen is sufficient and the OSCA shall authenticate the signature appearing thereon. In cases where the concerned senior citizen is unable to make the letter of authority by reason of physical or mental incapacity, a next of kin of the senior citizen may claim in his/her behalf, provided that the president of the local senior citizen association where the concerned citizen is a member shall issue a certification that the latter is indeed incapacitated."

SECTION 2. OSCA Ormoc City is mandated to issue, within thirty (30) days from the approval hereof, rules and regulations pertaining to administration and implementation of this Ordinance in relation with City Ordinance No. 184.

SECTION 3. OSCA Ormoc City, in aid of its duty of effectively, faithfully and thoroughly complying and implementing this Ordinance, is authorized to request the Office of the Mayor for designation, assignments or appointments of additional manpower who are preferably able-bodied senior citizens. Additionally, it shall earnestly endeavor to find ways and means to ensure that only qualified senior citizens as intended by the Ordinance and Ordinance No. 184 are able to claim the birthday gift granted therein.

SECTION 4. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If for any reason, any section of this Ordinance is subsequently declared invalid or ultra vires, the other sections or provisions hereof, not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. DATE OF EFFECTIVITY – This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after compliance of the posting and publication requirements in accordance with the Local Government Code.

SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE - All ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations and part thereof, previously issued, inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

ENACTED, April 21, 2016.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish copies of this Ordinance each to the Honorable City Mayor Edward C. Codilla, the City Administrator, the City Legal Officer, the City Budget Officer, the City Accountant, the City Treasurer, the City Auditor, the Office of Senior Citizens Affair (OSCA), the City Social Welfare & Development Office, the OIC-CLGOO, DILG and other Offices concerned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing ordinance.

leun JOEL S. DUERO Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

ATTESTED

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

APPROVED:

EDWARD C. CODILLA City Mayor 2016 (Date)

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