

Item No.: 07
Date: 09 2025 SEP



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Provincial Capitol
Tacloban City

-oOo-



PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE

Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Leyte

RECEIVED

2nd **INDORSEMENT**
August 20, 2025

Date: SEP 07 2025
By: [Signature]

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 11 series of 2025 of the Sangguniang Bayan of Alangalang, Leyte.

Issues/concerns for review/recommendation/legal opinion is/are as follows:

- Ordinance No. 11 series of 2025 entitled: “An Ordinance creating and operationalizing the BHRAC in every Barangay in the municipality of Alangalang, Leyte and providing funds for the said purpose.”

REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:

This office is of the opinion that the subject Ordinance is generally in accordance to its power under Section 447¹ of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160) in consonance with Section 447(5)(xiv)² of the same. Hence, recommending for the declaration of its validity.

We hope to have assisted you with this request. Please note that the opinion rendered by this Office are based on facts available and may vary or change when additional facts and documents are presented or changed. This opinion is likewise without prejudice to the opinions rendered by higher and competent authorities and/or the courts.

ATTY. JOSE RAYMUND A. ACOL
Provincial Legal Officer

¹;The sangguniang bayan, as the legislative body of the municipality, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of this Code and in the proper exercise of the corporate powers of the municipality as provided for under Section 22 of this Code

² subject to availability of funds, establish and provide for the operation of centers and facilities for said needy and disadvantaged persons affected by human rights violations.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Palo, Leyte
-000-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN



1ST INDORSEMENT
22 August 2025

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **Municipal Ordinance No. 11, s. 2025** of the **Municipality of Alangalang, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance creating and operationalizing the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) in every barangay in the Municipality of Alangalang, Leyte and providing funds for the said purpose.**


FLORINDA J. SUYVICO
Secretary to the Sanggunian

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
ALANGALANG, LEYTE

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 11
SERIES 2025

ENTITLED:

“AN ORDINANCE CREATING
AND OPERATIONALIZING
THE BARANGAY HUMAN
RIGHTS ACTION CENTER
(BHRAC) IN EVERY
BARANGAY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF
ALANGALANG, LEYTE AND
PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE
SAID PURPOSE.”

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Municipality of Alangalang
-oOo-

OFFICE OF THE SB SECRETARY

August 18, 2025

MS. FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO
SP Secretary
Provincial Capitol, Palo, Leyte

Ma'am:

Respectfully forward herewith copies of Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-11
"AN ORDINANCE CREATING AND OPERATIONALIZING THE BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTER (BHRAC) IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALANGALANG, LEYTE AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE SAID PURPOSE." for peruse and favorable action.

Kindly acknowledge receipt hereof.

Thank you and More Power!

Very Truly Yours,


DANI R. DE VEYRA
Mun. Gov't Department Head I
(Secretary to the Sanggunian)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Municipality of Alangalang
-oOo-

OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-11 has been posted for three weeks in the three public conspicuous places within the municipality and will remain posted for the information of the general public.


DANI R. DE VEYRA
Mun. Gov't Department Head I
(Secretary to the Sanggunian)

ATTESTED:


MARIO V. BAGUE
Municipal Vice Mayor



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LEYTE
Municipality of Alangalang

Office Of The Sangguniang Bayan

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF ALANGALANG, LEYTE HELD AT THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING SESSION HALL JULY 28, 2025.

PRESENT:

- SB Member Kenneth Spice M. de Veyra -Temporary Presiding Officer
- SB Member Gina Balderamos
- SB Member Blesilda M. Yu
- SB Member Elmer D. Matobato
- SB Member Claire G. Yu
- SB Member Kent Jefflord C. Guillermo
- SB Member Atty. Arvin Antoni
- Punong Barangay Sarah T. Apurillo - LIGA President
- SK Chairman Charlze Jericho Duane A. Tan - PPSK President

ABSENT:

- Vice Mayor Mario V. Bague -On Official Travel
- SB Member Ketchie Rex A. Barrantes -On Leave

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2025-11

SPONSOR: HON. SARAH T. APURILLO

President, Liga Ng Mga Barangay sa Pilipinas, Alangalang Leyte Chapter

“AN ORDINANCE CREATING AND OPERATIONALIZING THE BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTER (BHRAC) IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALANGALANG, LEYTE AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE SAID PURPOSE.”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Article II, Section 11, explicitly mandates that the State shall value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights. Furthermore, Article XIII, Section 18, establishes the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to investigate all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights. In line with this constitutional mandate and the call for localized human rights mechanisms, the Commission on Human Rights has advocated for the establishment of Barangay Human Rights Action Centers (BHRACs), as one of its key community-based strategies to promote, protect, and fulfill human rights at the grassroots level. Under Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, every local government unit is mandated to ensure the general welfare of its inhabitants. This includes upholding the basic human rights of its constituents and ensuring a responsive and rights-based governance framework.

KENNETH SPICE DE VEYRA
SB MEMBER

GINA BALDERAMOS
SB MEMBER

BLESILDA M. YU
SB MEMBER

KETCHIE REX A. BARRANTES
SB MEMBER

CHARLZE JERICHO DUANE TAN
PPSK

ELMER D. MATOBATO
SB MEMBER

CLAIRE G. YU
SB MEMBER

KENT JEFFLORD C. GUILLERMO
SB MEMBER

ATTY. ARVIN ANTONI
SB MEMBER

SARAH T. APURILLO
SB MEMBER

LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY PRESIDENT

Despite these provisions, many barangays still lack an institutional mechanism to effectively monitor, report, and act on human rights issues such as domestic violence, discrimination, child abuse, and violations of civil liberties. This gap becomes more apparent in vulnerable and underserved communities. This proposed ordinance aims to institutionalize the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC) in every barangay within the Municipality of Alangalang, Leyte, to serve as a frontline human rights monitoring and referral mechanism. The ordinance provides for the appointment of a Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO), outlines clear qualifications and duties, and integrates monitoring and reporting systems, in coordination with the CHR and the municipal government. By operationalizing BHRAC, the Municipality of Alangalang, Leyte ensures that every citizen has access to a community-based mechanism that safeguards one's rights, promotes awareness and facilitates access to justice and protection especially for the marginalized and vulnerable sector.

Approval of this ordinance is earnestly sought in the interest of protecting human dignity, strengthening barangay governance and promoting inclusive development through a human rights-based approach.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan of Alangalang, Leyte in its Regular Session duly assembled:

SECTION 1. TITLE OF THE ORDINANCE

This Municipal Ordinance shall be known as **"AN ORDINANCE CREATING AND OPERATIONALIZING THE BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTER (BHRAC) IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALANGALANG, LEYTE AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE SAID PURPOSE."**

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY

The Local Government Code of 1991 identifies the Barangay as the basic political unit that serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects and activities in the community (Section 384, Chapter I, Title I, Book III of the Local Government Code).

Article II, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. This provision declares that human dignity is at the core of governance and the state commits itself to respect, protect and fulfill human rights in all its actions. Pursuant to its constitutional mandate of enhancing respect for human rights, the Commission on Human Rights has conceptualized a program empowering the people in the grassroots level in promoting and protecting rights and bringing its services closer to the people.

KENNETH SPIGE DE VERA
SB MEMBER

GINA BALDERAMOS
SB MEMBER

BLESILDA M. YU
SB MEMBER

KETCHIE REX A. BARRANTES
SB MEMBER

CHARLIZE JERRICO DUANE TAN
SB MEMBER
PPSK

EMERD. MATOBAYO
SB MEMBER

CLAIRE G. YU
SB MEMBER

KENT JEFFLORD C. GUILLERMO
SB MEMBER

ATTY. ARVIN ANTONI
SB MEMBER

SARAH J. APURILLO
SB MEMBER

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of implementation of this Municipal Ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

- A. **Commission on Human Rights**- the independent body created by the 1987 Philippine Constitution with the primary role of investigating all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights in the Philippines.
- B. **Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC)** – refers to the program of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) for the nationwide mobilization for human rights protection and advocacy at the barangay level.
- C. **Barangay Human Rights Action Center Officer (BHRAO)**- refers to the person selected, designated and trained to provide and implement the BHRAC program.
- D. **Complaints Referral**- refers to the primary task of the BHRAO to receive and monitor complaints of alleged human rights violations and their referral to the nearest CHR Regional Office or sub-office for investigation.
- E. **Human Rights Violations**- refers to all forms of violations involving civil and political rights.
- F. **Civil Society**- the aggregate of the non-government organization and institutions that manifest the interests of citizens or individuals and organizations in a society which are independent of the government.
- G. **Human Rights Education Center**- refers to the Commission on Human Rights Education Center that conducts seminars, trainings, symposia and similar activities for all sectors and disseminates information/ materials which reach out to the grassroots level. Likewise, it conducts continuing research activities for the promotion and enhancement of human rights in the country.

SECTION 4. THE BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER (BHRAC)

Upon the effectivity of this Ordinance, there shall be created and operationalized in each barangay in the Municipality of Alangalang, Leyte the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC).

4.a.- The Barangay Human Rights Action Center is envisioned to function as help desk for all Human Rights Violations. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG through the efforts of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) passed a Memorandum Circular enjoining all barangays to pass or adopt a Barangay Human Rights Action Center in their barangay.

4.b.- All Regional Directors of the DILG were instructed to distribute this circular to all Local Government Units in their respective jurisdiction. The BHRAC program, through the initiatives of the CHR and the cooperation of the DILG, was initiated.

4.c- The establishment of the Barangay Action Center is an initiative towards the creation of a culture of human rights in our local communities so that human rights violations maybe prevented and human rights values may be promoted.

KENNETH SPIRIZ DE VEYRA
SB MEMBER

CHINA BALDERAMOS
SB MEMBER

BLESILDAM YU
SB MEMBER

KETCHIE RIX A. BARRANTES
SB MEMBER

CHARIZE JERICHO DUANE TAN
SB MEMBER
PPSK

ELMER D. MATOBATO
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KENT JEFFLORD C. GUILLERMO
SB MEMBER

ATTY. ARVIN ANTONI
SB MEMBER

SARAH T. APURILLO
SB MEMBER

LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY PRESIDENT

SECTION 5. OPERATIONALIZING THE BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTER

- a. The Barangay Human Rights Action Center Program is an initiative taken by the Commission on Human Rights to ensure that human rights are spread and preserved at the community level.
- b. The BHRAC program for human rights protection and advocacy at the barangay level has been conceived so that the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) will be within the reach of the people especially in the far-flung areas.
- c. The BHRAC program is built on two objectives:
 - a) To hand to ordinary citizens the central role of Human Rights promotion and protection in their community and;
 - b) To bring the services of the commission closer to the populace.
- d. There are identified services provided by the BHRAC:
 - a. Complaint Processing
 - b. Coordination
 - c. Mobilization
 - d. Information and Education

Each of these services is delivered by the BHRAC as the center at the community level.

1. Complaint Processing

- I. The Barangay Human Rights Action Center is envisioned to function as a help desk for all Human Rights violations. When a case is under the jurisdiction of the CHR, the center functions as a link to CHR Regional Office for investigation, legal advice and/ or assistance of the CHR or when cases can be processed in a quicker manner through other offices and agencies, the center functions as coordinator, referring the case and monitoring the development of the case.
- II. The Barangay Human rights Action Center Officer (BHRAO) primarily interviews the complainants to determine if the case is an HRV case defined under the jurisdiction of the CHR. A complaint form is accomplished during this interview.

2. Coordination

- I. The BHRAC, as protector and promoter of human rights, ensures coordination with the CHR and other government offices for complaints, for the Center's information campaign and for sustaining operations of the Center. As a coordinating office, it emphasizes the linkage of all its activities to the government and the community such that human rights become the concern of all.

KENNETH SPICE DE VEYRA
SB MEMBER

CINA BALDERAMOS
SB MEMBER

BLESILDAM, YU
SB MEMBER

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SB MEMBER

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SARAJI J. APURILLO
SB MEMBER

- II. The BHRAC, as the coordinator of all human rights cases, must be equipped with due knowledge on human rights violations. The offices and agencies, through coordination and cooperation will provide the services needed by its constituents.
- III. Coordination with NGOs and/or Community individuals. There are many NGOs or individuals that may help victims and complainants by their initiative. It is therefore the duty of the BHRAC operators to encourage participation of these people not only for quick referral and action to cases but also the full understanding of the role/s of each individual in the protection of human rights.

3. Mobilization

a. **Mobilization of the community for active participation in human rights activities.** It is the duty of the BHRAC to organize the community to be active advocates of human rights.

b. **Mobilization of the human rights advisory group.**

The Advisory group for human rights is formed through the initiative of the BHRAC Head. The group may be comprised of representatives from the church, communities, school and the barangay-based organizations (women, farmers, fishermen, youth, laborers, barangay-based NGOs etc.). As an advisory group, these sectoral representatives will act as the counsel for matters concerning their respective groups.

4. Information and Education

This service is performed by the BHRAC in four (4) ways; through the installation of the barangay bulletin, the distribution of training and information materials and information releases, conduct of seminars, trainings, symposia and other rights information and education activities in coordination with CHR and the small neighborhood discussion group on human rights within the barangay.

SECTION 6. APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION OFFICER (BHRAO)

The Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) operates the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC). Furthermore, to address the issues/concerns on human rights, rule of law and access to justice at the grassroots level, the CHR and the DILG shall strengthen the BHRACs through the Human Rights Action Center and Rule of Law (HRAC and ROL).

The Barangay Human Rights Action Center shall be headed by the Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) who shall be appointed by the Punong Barangay with the concurrence of the Sangguniang Barangay in a resolution passed for the purpose.

KENNETH SPIRCE DE VEYRA
SB MEMBER

GINA BALDERAMOS
SB MEMBER

BLESILDA M. YU
SB MEMBER

KITCHIE REX A. BARRANTES
SB MEMBER

CHARLIZE JERICHU DUANE TAN
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PPSK

EMER D. MATOBATO
SB MEMBER

CLAIRE G. YU
SB MEMBER

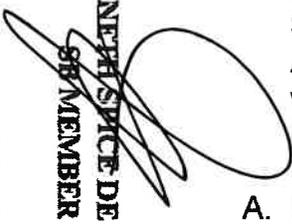
KENT JEFFLORD C. GUILLERMO
SB MEMBER

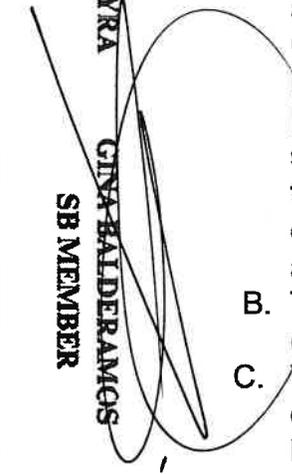
ATTY. ARVIN ANTONI
SB MEMBER

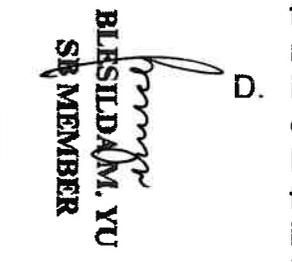
SARAH T. APURILLO
SB MEMBER

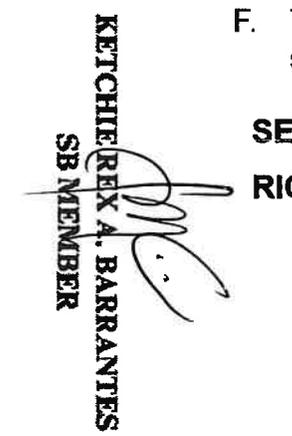
LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY PRESIDENT

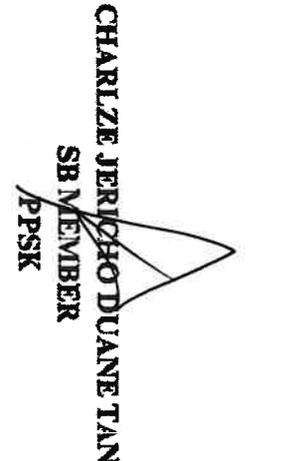
In the event that no Barangay Human Rights Action Officer has been appointed, the Barangay Secretary, upon approval of the majority of the Sangguniang Barangay, shall act as a temporary Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) in addition to his/her duties and responsibilities, without any additional salary, remuneration or emoluments until a fulltime Barangay Human Rights Action Officer (BHRAO) is appointed.


KENNETH SPICE DE VEYRA
SB MEMBER

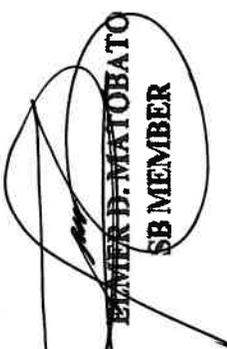

GINA BALDERAMOS
SB MEMBER


BLESSIDA M. YU
SB MEMBER


KETCHIE REX A. BARRANTES
SB MEMBER


CHARIZE JERICHODUANE TAN
SB MEMBER
/PPSK

- A. No person maybe appointed as BHRAO unless he/she is a resident of the barangay for at least five (5) years, not less than twenty-one (21) years old, at least a high school graduate and must be a person of probity and integrity. Once appointed, he/she must not engage in partisan, political activity and he shall be committed to the cause of human rights and is willing to undergo BHRAO trainings. The annual salary or allowance of the BHRAO and his/her staff shall be determined by the Punong Barangay with the concurrence of the Sangguniang Barangay and by the Sangguniang Bayan for the exclusive use and operation of the BHRACs subject to the required accounting and auditing rules and procedures.
- B. The BHRAO herein appointed and trained, shall receive proper deputation certificate and identification card from the Commission on Human Rights.
- C. The BHRAO may be removed from the office upon a written complaint, for cause and upon due process on the grounds of commission of violation of human rights, loss of confidence and non-performance of his/her duties and responsibilities, by the Punong Barangay present in a session duly called for the purpose and duly concurred in by the Sangguniang Barangay members.
- D. In case of temporary vacancy, the Punong Barangay shall designate any qualified Barangay Official or employee who shall assume the role of the BHRAO. In case of permanent vacancy due to refusal to assume office, failure to qualify, death, removal from, voluntary resignation or permanent incapacity to discharge the functions of office, the successor shall be chosen in accordance with the regular procedure on hiring.
- E. The BHRAO shall hold office in the Barangay Hall.
- F. The BHRAO or anyone appointed by the Punong Barangay shall undergo specialized training on Human Rights and the operation of BHRAC.


EMAR D. MATOBATO
SB MEMBER


CLAIRE G. YU
SB MEMBER


KENT JEFFLORD C. GUILLERMO
SB MEMBER


ATTY. ARVIN ANTONI
SB MEMBER


SARAH T. APURILLO
SB MEMBER

LIGANG MGA BARANGAY PRESIDENT

SECTION 7. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BARANGAY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION OFFICER (BHRAO)

A. As Training and Information Officer:

- a. Installation and maintenance of a barangay bulletin and other information and updates on human rights matters;
- b. Distribution of training and information materials on human rights to make people human rights advocates and defenders;
- c. Education of communities through seminars on human rights advocates and defenders;

B. As coordinator and referral officer:

- a. Maintaining barangay directories of services/ programs;
- b. Receiving and giving feedbacks on referral actions;
- c. Implementing/ coordinating services at barangay level.

C. As Human Rights Complaints Officer:

- a. Receiving and monitoring of complaints of human rights violations;
- b. Assisting complainants in securing legal services and financial assistance from CHR.

The BHRAC through the BHRAO shall organize and mobilize an advisory group within the barangay composed of representatives from the school, church, barangay-based sectoral organizations, private organizations, non-governmental organizations and local media.

SECTION 8. BARANGAY ALLOCATION

All Sangguniang Barangay in the Municipality of Alangalang, Leyte shall prioritize the creation and operationalization of the Barangay Human Rights Action Center (BHRAC). For this purpose, they shall conduct regular review of their human rights plan of action for inclusion in the annual budget appropriation of each barangay.

All barangays in the Municipality of Alangalang, Leyte shall allocate from their annual barangay budgets a sufficient amount to be determined by the Punong Barangay with the concurrence of the Sangguniang Barangay and by the Sangguniang Bayan for the exclusive use and operation of the BHRACs subject to the required accounting and auditing rules and procedures.

SECTION 9. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, the remainder or any provision herein not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE.

All Ordinances, executive orders, issuances including rules and regulations inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVITY.

This ordinance shall take effect upon approval.

ENACTED, by the Sangguniang Bayan on July 28, 2025.

APPROVED, by the Mayor on _____.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing Municipal Ordinance No. 2025-11

DANI R. DE VEYRA
Secretary to the Sanggunian
Municipal Gov't. Department Head

KENNETH SPIRIT DE VEYRA
SB MEMBER

GINA BALDERAMOS
SB MEMBER

BLESILDA M. YU
SB MEMBER

KETCHERIK A. BARRANTES
SB MEMBER

CHARLIZE JENCHO DUANE TAN
SB MEMBER
PPSK

EMERLYD. MATOBATO
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ATTY. ARVIN ANTONI
SB MEMBER

SARAH J. APURILLO
SB MEMBER

LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY PRESIDENT

**ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ENACTED:**



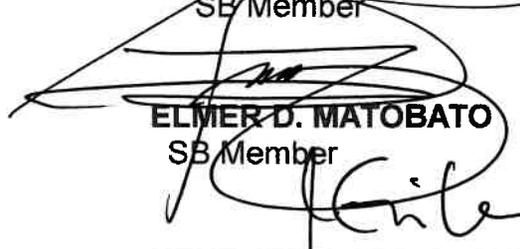
KENNETH SPICE M. DE VEYRA
SB Member
Temporary Presiding Officer



GINA BALDERAMOS
SB Member



BLESILDA M. YU
SB Member



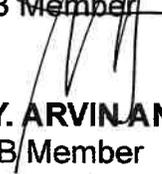
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KENT JEFFLORD C. GUILLERMO
SB Member



ATTY. ARVIN ANTONI
SB Member



SARAH T. APURILLO
SB Member
LIGA President



CHARLZE JERICO DUANNE A. TAN
SB Member
PPSix President

APPROVED BY:



LOVELL ANNE M. YU-CASTRO
Municipal Mayor

VOTING:

YES - 8

NO - 0

