



Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF LEYTE**  
 Provincial Capitol  
 Tacloban City

Item No.: 40  
 Date: 26 2026 MAY

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
 LEGAL OFFICE  
**RELEASED**

By: [Signature]  
 Date: 5.15.26 Time: 9:00

-oOo-

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
 Province of Leyte  
**RECEIVED**  
 Date: MAY 15 2026  
 By: [Signature]

**PROVINCIAL LEGAL OFFICE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> INDORSEMENT**

May 8, 2026

Respectfully returned to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Leyte, through the SP Secretary, the attached Ordinance No. 2 of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Baybay, Leyte.

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

- Ordinance No. 2 entitled: “ **Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy Program for Persons or Children with Autism and Special Needs Ordinance** ”

**REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION/LEGAL OPINION:**

This office opines that the subject Ordinance is, in general, within the legislative authority of the Sangguniang Bayan under Section 458(a)(5)(xiv)<sup>1</sup> of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A 7160). Hence, we recommend 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 the 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*

<sup>1</sup> ((xiv) Provide for the care of disabled persons, paupers, the aged, the sick, persons of unsound mind, abandoned minors, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, abused children and other needy and disadvantaged persons, particularly children and youth below eighteen (18) years of age; and subject to availability of funds, establish and provide for the operation of centers and facilities for said needy and disadvantaged persons;

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PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
Palo, Leyte  
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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN**

**1<sup>ST</sup> INDORSEMENT**  
10 April 2026

PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
LEGAL OFFICE  
**RECEIVED**  
By: *[Signature]*  
Date: *4.13.26* Time: *9:00*

The Provincial Legal Office is respectfully requested to review and submit recommendations on the herein enclosed **City Ordinance No. 02, S. 2026 of the City of Baybay, Leyte**, entitled: **An Ordinance establishing an institutionalized Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy Program for persons or children with autism and special needs in the City of Baybay and for such other purposes.**

*[Signature]*  
**FLORINDA JILL S. UYVICO**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian



Republic of the Philippines  
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
**CITY OF BAYBAY**  
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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

3rd Floor City Hall, Diversion Road. Brgy. Gaas, Baybay City, Leyte 6521 \* sp.lgubaybaycity@gmail.com

April 10, 2026

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
 Province of Leyte  
 Tacloban City

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
 Province of Leyte  
**RECEIVED**  
 Date: APR 10 2026  
 By: [Signature]


To the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Leyte:

I am pleased to transmit herewith the Soft and Hard copy of the City Ordinance of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Baybay City:

1. City Ordinance No. 2, s. 2026 "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTIONALIZED AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR PERSONS OR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE CITY OF BAYBAY AND FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES."
2. City Ordinance No. 3, S. 2026 "AN ORDINANCE ENACTING A REVISED CHILDREN'S CODE IN THE CITY OF BAYBAY."

It is hoped that said Ordinance is in order and therefore, merits your kind consideration.

Thank you very much.

  
 ATTY. VIVIAN E. VIDALLON  
 SP Secretary

Incl.: as stated



Republic of the Philippines  
 PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
**CITY OF BAYBAY**  
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**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

3rd Floor City Hall, Diversion Road, Brgy. Gaas, Baybay City, Leyte 6521 \* spbaybaycity.616@gmail.com

**7th SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

Sangguniang Panlalawigan  
 Province of Leyte

**RECEIVED**

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 02, S-2026  
 9th Regular Session

Date: APR 10 2026  
 By: Amie

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN INSTITUTIONALIZED AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR PERSONS OR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE CITY OF BAYBAY AND FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES**

Sponsored by: Hon. JOSE ROMMEL A. PEÑARANDA

**PREFATORY STATEMENTS**

WHEREAS, Section 458 (5) (XIV) of the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) provides that the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* shall enact ordinances that provide for the care of disabled persons, paupers, the sick, persons of unsound mind, abandoned minors, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, abused children, and other needy and disadvantaged persons particularly the children and youth below eighteen (18) years of age; and subject to availability of funds, establish and provide for the operation of centers and facilities for said needy and disadvantage persons;

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the same Code provides that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide awareness and support to people with autism and special needs in the City of Baybay by providing programs and advocacy interventions to promote the welfare of these marginalized sector;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, as it is hereby ordained by the 7th *Sangguniang Panlungsod* of the City of Baybay, Province of Leyte, in its 9th Regular Session duly assembled that:

**SECTION 1. TITLE.** This Ordinance shall be known as "Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy Program for Persons or Children with Autism and Special Needs Ordinance".

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF TERMS.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the following definition of terms shall apply:

**Autism or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** – it is a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and by restricted, repetitive or stereotyped behavior. The diagnostic criteria require that symptoms become apparent before a child is three years old. Autism affects information processing in the brain by altering how nerve cells and their synopsis connect and organize but how this occurs is not well understood. Autism is one of the three recognized disorders in the autism spectrum (ASDs), the other two being Asperger syndrome, which lacks delays in cognitive development and language; and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, not otherwise specified (commonly

*Amie*

*[Signature]*  
 ROMULO B. ALCALA  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 EDGARDO R. OIMPOY  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 FULTON IRE C. ARRADAZA  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 SIMOLINE L. ASTORGA  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 DOMINIC J. MURILLO  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 JOSE L. BACUSMO  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 RAMON RONALD J. VELOSO  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 ATTY. JOSE ROMMEL A. PEÑARANDA  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 EDUARDO M. GUINOCOR  
 SP Member

*[Signature]*  
 JULES M. CAS C. CARI  
 President, Liga ng mga Barangay  
 Ex-Officio SPM

abbreviated as PDD-NOS), but which is diagnosed when the full set of criteria for Autism or Asperger are not met.

**Person or Child with Autism** – refers to any person or child who has a developmental condition affecting social communication, behavior, and sensory processing, with symptoms appearing early in childhood. Key signs include poor eye contact, limited response to their name, repetitive behaviors (hand-flapping, rocking), intense interests, and sensitivity to sensory stimuli. While there is no cure, early intervention, including behavioral therapies and support, helps children develop skills.

For purposes of this ordinance, a person or child with Autism is someone who has been diagnosed and underwent proper and comprehensive diagnostic evaluation conducted by qualified professional such as development pediatricians child psychologists or psychiatrists, who are trained and authorized to assess developmental conditions.

Autism is usually identified by the time a child is 30 months old. It is often discovered when parents become concerned that their child may be deaf, is not yet talking, resists cuddling, and avoid interaction with others. Some of the early signs and symptoms which suggest a young child may need further evaluation for autism include:

- a. no smiling by 6 months of age
- b. no back and forth sharing of sounds, smiles or facial expressions by nine months
- c. no babbling, pointing, reaching or waving by 12 months
- d. no single word by 16 months
- e. no two word phrases by 24 months
- f. regression in development
- g. any loss of speech, babbling or social skills

A preschool age child with "classic" autism is generally withdrawn, aloof, and fails to respond to other people. Many of these children will not even make eye contact. They may also engage in odd or ritualistic behaviors like rocking, hand flapping or an obsessive need to maintain order. many children with autism do not speak at all. Those who do may speak in rhyme, have echolalia (repeating a person's words like an echo), refer to themselves as a "he" or "she", or use peculiar language.

The severity of autism varies widely, from mild to severe. Some children are very smart and do well in school, although they have problems with school adjustment. They may be able to live independently when they grow up. Other children with autism function at a much lower level. Mental retardation is commonly associated with autism.

Occasionally, a child with autism may display an extraordinary talent in act, music, or another specific area. However, children with autism need a comprehensive evaluation and specialized behavioral and education programs to develop their potential. Although there is no cure for autism, appropriate specialized treatment provided early in life can have a positive impact on the child's development and produce an overall reduction in disrupted behaviors and symptoms.

**Persons or Children with special needs** – refer to persons or children requiring extra assistance for disabilities, learning challenges, or medical conditions. These are individuals with a variety of different disabilities, health and mental conditions that require special intervention, services, or support. Both autism and Down syndrome fall under this category, but not all individuals with special needs have these specific conditions.

**SECTION 3. AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT ADVOCAY PROGRAM.**

The City Government shall undertake continuing awareness and support advocacy programs that would protect the well-being of persons or children with autism and special needs; motivate the full participation and involvement of their families in their rehabilitation activities; and promote measures to discover and maximize the development of their skills and potentials so as to prepare them to become useful and productive adults.

ROMULO CALALA  
SP Member

EDGARDO CAMPOY  
SP Member

FULTON L. ARRADAZA  
SP Member

SIMONE L. ASTORGA  
SP Member

DOMINGO MURILLO  
SP Member

JOSE L. BACUSMO  
SP Member

RAMON RONALD J. VELOSO  
SP Member

ATTY. JOSE RICHARDO A. PEÑARANDA  
SP Member

EDUARD MARQUE A. GUINOCOR  
SP Member

JAMES C. CARI  
President, IGG mgá Barangay  
Ex-Oficio SPM

With this in view, the Month of January of each year shall be designate as Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy Month dedicated to persons or children with autism and special needs in the City of Baybay.

The City Government, in coordination with the DepEd City Division, SP Committee on Social Welfare, SP Committee on Education and the SP Committee on Health, civil society organizations and private organizations of parents and professionals advocating for the cause of persons or children with autism and special needs shall come up with a month-long Program of Activities that would encourage awareness and full support for the development, rehabilitation and benefit of persons or children with autism and special needs.

**SECTION 4. FUNDING.**The City Mayor shall appropriate such amount as he/she may deem necessary to support the various programs of Autism Awareness and Support Advocacy, to be taken from the budget allocated for the promotion of rights and protection of children.

**SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any part or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All executive orders, memorandum orders, memorandum circulars, administrative orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** This Ordinance shall take effect after due compliance with all the requirements provided under RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

Enacted: March 4, 2026  
Baybay City, Leyte, Philippines.

CARRIED BY ALL OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT:

CARMEN L. CARI – On Leave  
SP Member

EDGARDO R. OMPOY  
SP Member

SIMOUNE L. ASTORGA  
SP Member

JOSE L. BACUSMO  
SP Member

ATTY. JOSE ROMMEL A. PENARANDA  
SP Member


ROMULO B. ALCALA  
SP Member

DR. FULTON IKE C. ARRADAZA  
SP Member

DOMINIC JUNIE F. MURILLO  
SP Member

RAMON RONALD J. VELOSO  
SP Member

EDUARD MARQUE R. GUINOCOR  
SP Member

  
**JULES LUCAS C. CARI**  
President, LIGA Ng Mga Barangay  
Ex-Officio SPM

**KYLA SHANNEN T. VIDAL - OB**  
SK President, City Federation  
Ex-Officio SPM

RESOLVED FURTHER, that certified copies of this ORDINANCE be furnished to the City Mayor Honorable Jose Carlos L. Cari, City Administrator Florante Cayunda Jr.; City Legal Officer, Atty. Avito C. Cahig, Jr.; OIC City Budget Officer, Noel V. Managbanag ; City Accountant Jay Ryan Austero; City Treasurer Alberta A. Manatad, CLGOO Juvy C. Pedrera, and to all other offices/agencies/entities concerned for their information, guidance and appropriate action.

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance.

  
**ATTY. VIVIAN C. ENARIO-VIDALLON**  
Secretary to the Sanggunian

**ATTESTED & CERTIFIED  
TO BE DULY ADOPTED**

  
**ATTY. ERNESTO M. BUTAWAN**  
City Vice Mayor / Presiding Officer

**CONFORME:**

  
**ENGR. JOSE CARLOS L. CARI**  
City Mayor

Date: 04/08/2026



Republic of the Philippines  
PROVINCE OF LEYTE  
**CITY OF BAYBAY**  
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## **OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

3rd Floor City Hall, Diversion Road, Brgy. Gaas, Baybay City, Leyte 6521 \* sp.lgubaybaycity@gmail.com

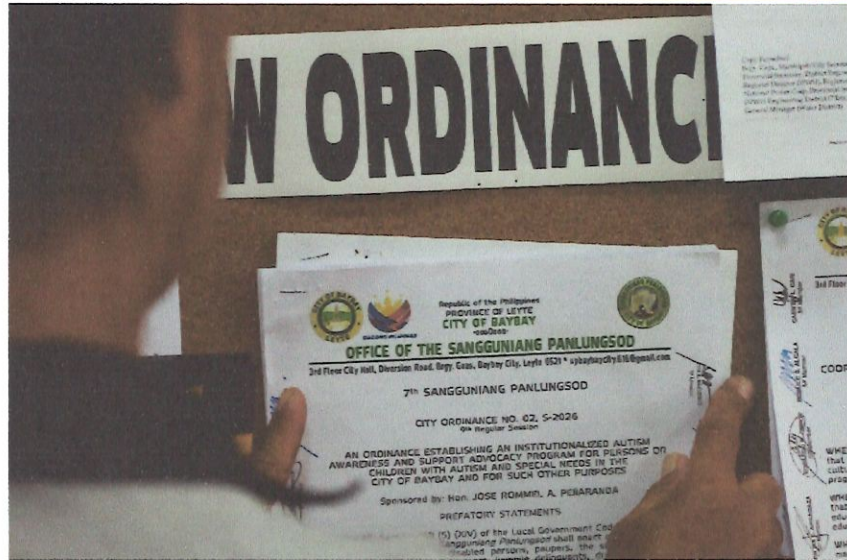
### C E R T I F I C A T I O N

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

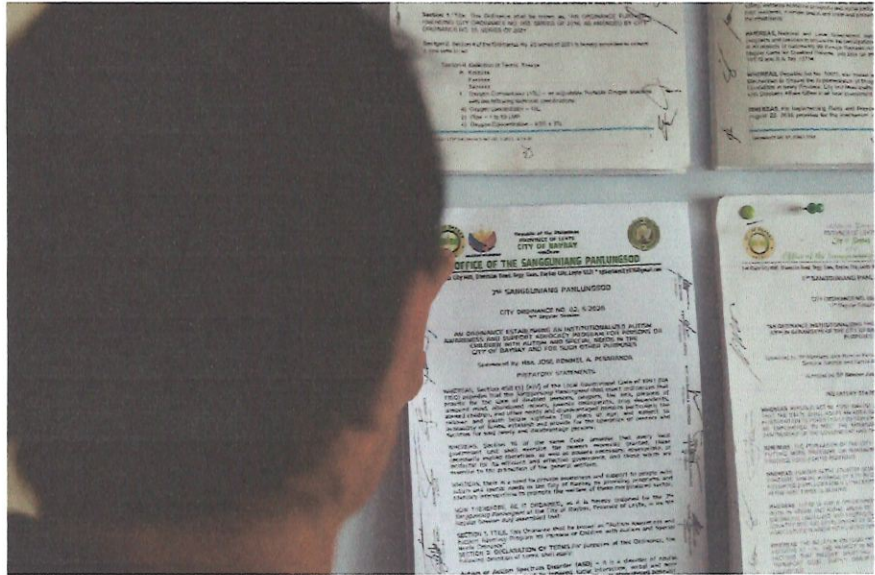
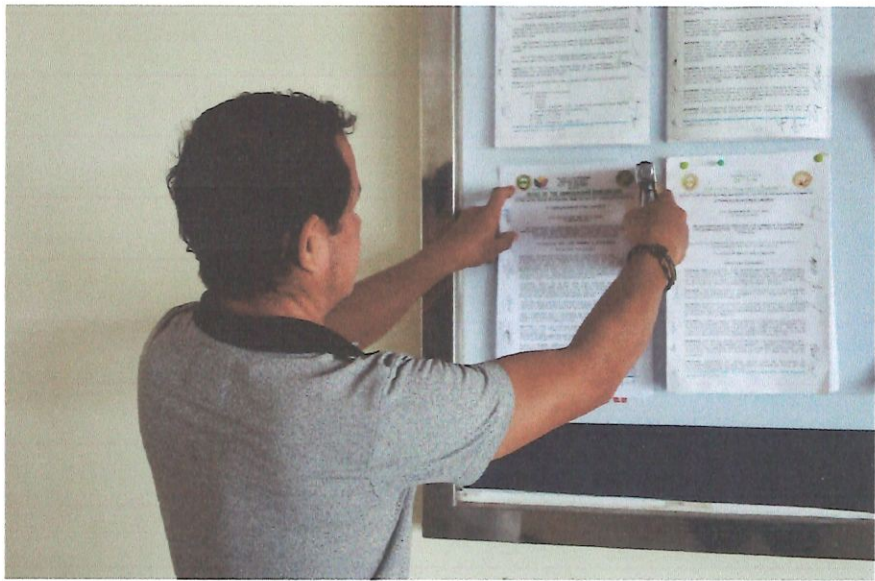
THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the City Ordinance No. 02 s. 2026 "AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTIONALIZED AUTISM AWARENESS AND SUPPORT ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR PERSONS OR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM AND SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE CITY OF BAYBAY AND FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES." was posted in the bulletin board at the Legislative Department, New City Hall, Diversion Road, the Public Market and Baybay City Bus and Terminal immediately upon approval.

Issued this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026, at Baybay City, Leyte.

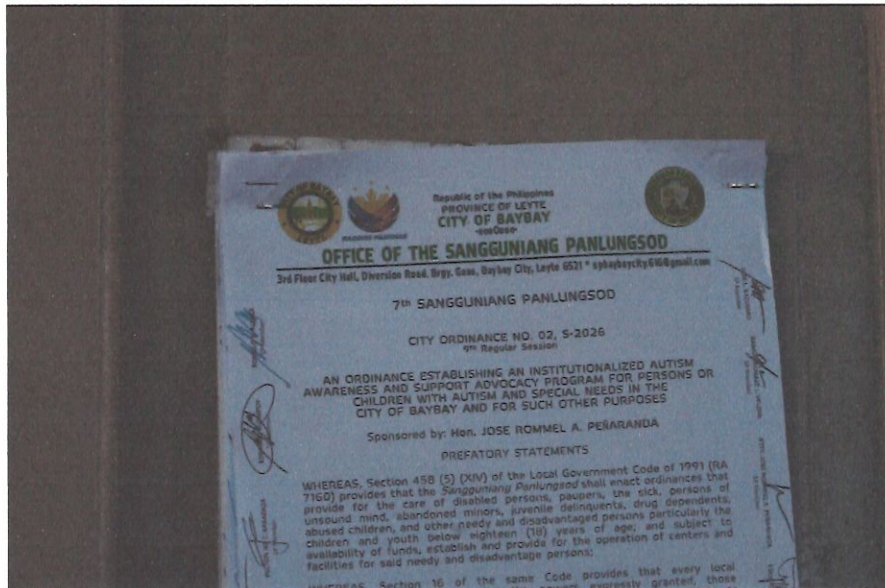
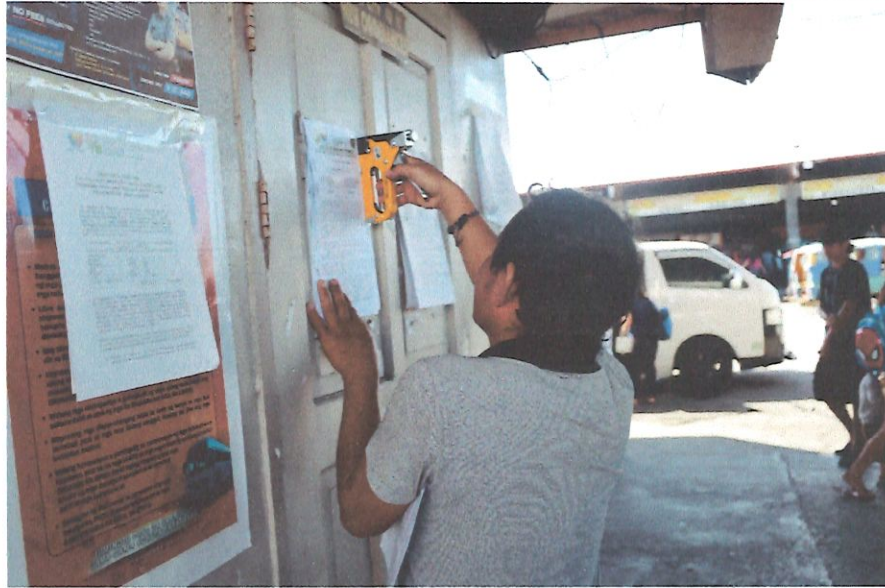
  
ATTY. VIVIAN E. VIDALLON  
SP Secretary



## LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT



**NEW CITY HALL, DIVERSION ROAD**



## BAYBAY BUS TERMINAL