

AN ORDINANCE PENALIZING ANY PERSON WHO SHALL CROSS OR BREACH A POLICE LINE CORDON IN THE CITY OF MANILA WITH A FINE OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 5,000.00) OR IMPRISONMENT OF FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OR BOTH, SUCH FINE AND IMPRISONMENT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, the August 2010 hostage-taking incident that ended with lives lost, scores injured and the sensitivities of the nation in shock, is once again a grim reminder of how inept and ill equipped our law enforcement agencies are in reacting to such situation;

WHEREAS, because the whole fiasco was aired in some reputable international news networks, the whole world watched as it all unfolded – including the onrush of the curious or so – called “Osiseos” who braved the heavy downpour and rushed in droves to the crime scene as if the whole thing was something out of a movie scene or a spectacular display of bravado by swashbuckling gun fighters;

WHEREAS, it was vivid that a yellow police line strip with the bold words “POLICE LINE. DO NOT CROSS” was installed a few meters from the hostage-taking scene to warn bystanders and non-law enforcement officers to stay away;

WHEREAS, the breach of the police line – seen on international and local televisions – is a clear and embarrassing indictment of our inability and ineptness to impose discipline and maintain law and order in times of crisis: NOW, THEREFORE

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, in session, assembled, THAT:

SECTION 1. A fine of Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00) or imprisonment of fifteen (15) days or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court, shall hereby be imposed on any person who shall cross or breach a police line cordon in the City of Manila.


SEC. 2. Definition of Police Line. – A demarcation line which is drawn or made by law enforcement officers involved in a legitimate on-the-scene crime or fire investigation or response, which purpose is to prevent bystanders or other individuals not involved in such operation, response, investigation or from getting near or proximate to the crime or fire scene. It is usually, but not necessarily, indicated by a yellow strip of clothing or other material which bears the words, “POLICE LINE. DO NOT CROSS.”


Sec. 3. Effectivity Clause. - This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today, August 23, 2011


Approved by His Honor, the Mayor, 15TH. SEPT. 2011

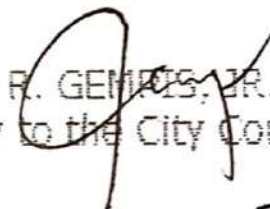
APPROVED:


ALFREDO S. LIM
Mayor
City of Manila


FRANCISCO "Isko Moreno" DOMAGOSO
Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:


RAFAELITO M. GARAYBLAS
Secretary to the Mayor


LUCH R. GENITIS, JR.
Secretary to the City Council

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