



Republic of the Philippines
CITY COUNCIL
City of Manila

REGULAR SESSION NO. 74

13TH CITY COUNCIL

Begun and held in the City Council on Wednesday,
the fourth day of March, Two Thousand Twenty-Six

ORDINANCE NO. 9180

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING YOUTH SAFE SPACES IN THE CITY OF MANILA,
PROVIDING FOR THE DESIGNATION, CREATION, MANAGEMENT, SAFEGUARDS,
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS: **HON. JULIANA RAE "Yanyan" M. IBAY**, HON. EDWARD M. TAN, HON. DON JUAN "DJ" BAGATSING, HON. KUYA DOK FRANCIS MICHAEL U. ALMIRON, HON. EUNICE ANN DENICE G. CASTRO, HON. LOUISA MARIE "Lady" J. QUINTOS-TAN, HON. ELMER "Joel" M. PAR, HON. RAFAEL "Che" P. BORROMEO, HON. KUYA RYAN B. PONCE, HON. VOLTAIRE "Caloy" D. CASTAÑEDA, HON. LUCIANO "Lou" M. VELOSO, HON. JOAQUIN ANDRE "JD" D. DOMAGOSO, HON. DRA. IRMA C. ALFONSO-JUSON, HON. JESUS "Taga" E. FAJARDO, JR., HON. DARWIN "Awi" B. SIA, HON. SCIENCE A. REYES, HON. ENRIQUETA "ERIK" O. PLATON, HON. ROSALINO "JHUN" P. IBAY, JR., HON. CHRISTIAN PAUL L. UY, HON. ATTY. JAYBEE S. HIZON and HON. RAYMUNDO "Mon" R. YUPANGCO, Majority Floor Leader



EXPLANATORY NOTE

The youth are the nation's greatest resource, and it is the duty of the government to promote their welfare, development and protection in accordance with the Constitution.

The City of Manila recognizes the growing need to create safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for youth to express themselves freely and without fear of discrimination, bullying, harassment or violence.

Republic Act No. 10627 otherwise known as the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013", mandates the creation of programs and mechanisms to prevent bullying in all schools and youth institutions.

Republic Act No. 11313 otherwise known as the "Safe Spaces Act of 2019", provides for the protection of individuals from gender-based sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination and violence in streets, public spaces, online, and workplaces.

The Revised Penal Code and other existing laws provide penalties for acts of violence, harassment and discrimination which must be enforced in all public spaces including those meant for the youth.

The City Council deems it necessary and urgent to institutionalize Youth Safe Spaces within the City of Manila to provide access to mental health support, promote inclusivity and foster positive youth development.


JULIANA RAE "Yanyan" M. IBAY
Ex-Officio Member
Manila

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Ordinance shall be known as the “Youth Safe Spaces Ordinance of the City of Manila”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy and Objectives. –

- (a) It is the declared policy of the City Government of Manila to promote the general welfare of its inhabitants, particularly the youth, by ensuring the availability of safe, inclusive, accessible and supportive environments where young people may gather, learn, seek support and express themselves free from bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation and violence, consistent with law.
- (b) The City recognizes that youth well-being requires coordinated protective measures, mental health support and community participation while upholding constitutional rights, due process and data privacy.
- (c) This Ordinance aims to:
 - 1. institutionalize the designation and establishment of Youth Safe Spaces;
 - 2. provide standards for physical and virtual Youth Safe Spaces;
 - 3. define programs and services, including mental health support and referrals;
 - 4. provide clear safeguards, complaint mechanisms and due process; and
 - 5. ensure harmonization with national laws and existing local ordinances.

SEC. 3. Construction; Harmonization with National Laws and Local Measures. –

- (a) This Ordinance shall be construed and implemented in harmony with applicable national laws and issuances, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. the “Local Government Code of 1991” (R.A. No. 7160);
 - 2. the “Youth in Nation-Building Act” (R.A. No. 8044);
 - 3. the “Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act” (R.A. No. 10742);
 - 4. the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013” (R.A. No. 10627) and relevant DepEd rules for school-based incidents;
 - 5. the “Safe Spaces Act” (R.A. No. 11313) and its implementing rules;
 - 6. the “Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act” (R.A. No. 9344, as amended) for cases involving minors;
 - 7. the “Data Privacy Act of 2012” (R.A. No. 10173); and
 - 8. the “Mental Health Act” (R.A. No. 11036).
- (b) Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted to:
 - 1. diminish or supersede national penal laws and procedures;
 - 2. create criminal offenses already defined and penalized under national law; or
 - 3. compel national government agencies or independent constitutional commissions to participate beyond their lawful mandates and voluntary acceptance.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) **Youth** – for the purposes of this Ordinance, youth shall be defined as persons aged ten (10) to thirty (30) years old.
- (b) **Minor Youth** – Youth aged fifteen (15) to seventeen (17) years old.
- (c) **Adult Youth** – Youth aged eighteen (18) to thirty (30) years old.
- (d) **Safe Space** – A physical or virtual environment designed and managed to be free from bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination, violence and other forms of harm and which promotes inclusivity, respect and support.
- (e) **Youth Safe Space (YSS)** – A Safe Space designated, established, managed, operated, or officially recognized by the City Government of Manila or by an accredited partner organization for youth-focused activities, dialogue, learning, counseling or peer support, recreation, referrals and related services, subject to standards set by this Ordinance and its IRR.
- (f) **School-Based Youth Safe Space** – A Youth Safe Space located in or operated by a school, subject to this Ordinance and without prejudice to DepEd/CHED policies and Republic Act No. 10627 otherwise known as the “Anti Bullying Act” processes for school incidents.
- (g) **Partner-Managed Youth Safe Space** – A Youth Safe Space operated by a youth organization, NGO, faith-based group, or private entity pursuant to a written agreement with the City and subject to accreditation and compliance.
- (h) **Mental Health Support Services** – Non-discriminatory services that promote psychological well-being, including psychoeducation, peer support, stress management, crisis first aid and referral pathways; Provided, that clinical diagnosis, psychotherapy, or psychiatric management shall be performed only by qualified and duly licensed professionals, consistent with Republic Act No. 11036 otherwise known as the “Mental Health Act”.
- (i) **Repeated Violation** – A second or subsequent final administrative finding, after due process, that the same person committed a violation of this Ordinance or YSS House Rules within a twelve (12) month-period.
- (j) **House Rules** – Posted rules adopted for each Youth Safe Space consistent with this Ordinance, its IRR and the Constitution, including rules on respectful conduct, nonviolence, anti-harassment, non-discrimination, privacy and safety procedures.
- (k) **Bullying** – for the purposes of this Ordinance, the definition of “bullying” under Sec. 2 of Republic Act No. 10627 otherwise known as the “Anti Bullying Act of 2013” shall be adopted.

SEC. 5. Scope and Coverage. –

- (a) This Ordinance applies to all designated, established, managed, or officially recognized Youth Safe Spaces within the territorial jurisdiction of Manila, including, but not limited to:
 - 1. City-run community youth centers;
 - 2. City-recognized school-based youth safe spaces (subject to school policies and national rules);
 - 3. City youth development offices or facilities;
 - 4. Partner-managed youth safe spaces under accreditation; and
 - 5. City-managed or City-recognized virtual platforms expressly designated as Youth Safe Spaces.
- (b) Coverage over partner facilities and private premises shall be by consent and agreement, and enforcement shall be limited to City-recognized YSS functions and standards.

- (c) Online coverage shall apply only to: (i) City-managed platforms; or (ii) City-recognized platforms with written commitments to comply with this Ordinance and data privacy requirements.

SEC. 6. Lead Implementing Office; Designation of Focal Units. –

- (a) The Manila Youth Development and Welfare Bureau (MYDWB) is hereby designated as the Lead Implementing Office for this Ordinance.
- (b) The MYDWB shall designate a Youth Safe Spaces Program Office/Unit (or focal person/team) to coordinate implementation, standards, accreditation, training and monitoring.
- (c) The MYDWB shall coordinate with the Manila Department of Social Welfare (MDSW), the Manila Health Department (MHD), the City Legal Officer (CLO), the Manila Barangay Bureau (MBB) and other relevant city offices, as necessary.

SEC. 7. Establishment, Designation, and Accreditation of Youth Safe Spaces. –

- (a) The City shall establish and/or designate Youth Safe Spaces in a phased and need-based manner, prioritizing communities with higher vulnerability indicators, subject to the availability of funds.
- (b) Designation - A facility or platform may be designated as a Youth Safe Space upon compliance with minimum standards set by this Ordinance and the IRR, including safety, accessibility, safeguarding, and program readiness.
- (c) Accreditation of Partners - Partner-managed Youth Safe Spaces shall be accredited by the MYDWB pursuant to criteria in the IRR, including:
 - 1. written agreement/MOA;
 - 2. safeguarding and anti-harassment protocols;
 - 3. trained personnel or volunteers;
 - 4. data privacy compliance measures; and
 - 5. clear referral pathways.
- (d) All designated Youth Safe Spaces shall post visible House Rules, complaint channels, and emergency contact information.

SEC. 8. Minimum Standards for Youth Safe Spaces. – Each Youth Safe Space shall, at a minimum, provide:

- (a) Safe and accessible facilities, including reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, safe lighting, seating, ventilation and where practicable, gender-sensitive and PWD-friendly access;
- (b) Safeguarding measures, including anti-bullying, anti-harassment, non-discrimination, anti-violence protocols and incident response;
- (c) Trained personnel, including youth workers/facilitators and where applicable, access to licensed mental health professionals through City services or referral networks;
- (d) Programmatic spaces suitable for dialogue, learning, recreation and support services; and
- (e) Referral mechanisms for specialized help (health, social welfare, legal assistance, education, protection services), including crisis protocols.

SEC. 9. Programs and Services. – Youth Safe Spaces may provide, subject to standards and resources:

- (a) peer support sessions and mental health awareness activities;
- (b) life skills, leadership, civic engagement, and employability workshops;

- (c) forums for dialogue on issues affecting youth;
- (d) educational, arts, sports, and recreational activities fostering socialization and creativity;
- (e) mediation/restorative conferences for minor conflicts, where appropriate; and
- (f) referrals to City or partner services for health, protection, education, employment, and legal assistance.

Provided, that services shall be delivered in a manner that safeguards participants, protects confidentiality, and ensures informed consent consistent with R.A. No. 11036 and applicable rules.

SEC. 10. Rights of Youth Users. – Every youth user of a Youth Safe Space has the right to:

- (a) a safe, respectful, inclusive, and non-judgmental environment;
- (b) reasonable privacy and confidentiality as provided in this Ordinance;
- (c) access to complaint and grievance mechanisms;
- (d) non-retaliation for good-faith reporting of violations; and
- (e) reasonable accommodation for accessibility needs, where practicable.

SEC. 11. Responsibilities of Youth Users. – Every youth user shall:

- (a) respect the rights, dignity, and safety of others;
- (b) comply with the posted House Rules;
- (c) refrain from bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, violence, vandalism, or other prohibited conduct; and
- (d) cooperate with safety measures and lawful incident response procedures.

SEC. 12. Protection of Privacy; Confidentiality; Data Governance. –

- (a) The collection, processing, storage, and sharing of any personal information within Youth Safe Spaces shall comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and applicable regulations.
- (b) Counseling, peer support, and incident reports shall be treated as confidential and accessed only by authorized personnel on a need-to-know basis, subject to:
 - 1. informed consent;
 - 2. lawful orders; and
 - 3. limited exceptions where disclosure is necessary to prevent imminent harm or as otherwise required by law.

(c) The IRR shall prescribe:

- 1. standard consent forms/assent protocols (including for minors);
- 2. record retention and security measures;
- 3. confidentiality training requirements; and
- 4. protocols for crisis situations and mandatory referrals.

SEC. 13. Penal Provisions. – Any violation of any provision of this Ordinance may be penalized as stated below:

- 1. **Bullying or Discrimination** - Penalties may include reprimand, mandatory counseling, community service, exclusion from youth safe spaces, imprisonment of maximum period of one year and/or fines ranging from One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) to Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) depending gravity of the offense or both upon the discretion of the court.

2. **Violation of Confidentiality** - Unauthorized disclosure of private information shared within Youth Safe Spaces (YSS) counseling or support sessions shall be penalized by imprisonment of maximum period of one year and/or fines ranging from One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) to Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) and suspension from access to YSS.
3. **Disorderly Conduct and Vandalism** - Acts of vandalism, destruction of property, or disorderly conduct within YSS shall be subject to fines, community service, and/or criminal charges in accordance with local ordinances and the Revised Penal Code.
4. **Non-compliance by Officials or Managers.** – Any official or personnel responsible for managing Youth Safe Spaces who neglect their duties, allow unsafe conditions, or fail to uphold the provisions of this Ordinance shall be subject to administrative sanctions, suspension, or dismissal.

SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Manila Youth Development and Welfare Bureau (MYDWB) shall promulgate such necessary rules and regulations for the immediate and effective implementation of this Ordinance within a period of ninety (90) days upon the approval of this Ordinance.

SEC. 15. Separability Clause. – If any part of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain valid and in force.

SEC. 16. Repealing Clause. – All ordinances, resolutions, or provisions inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

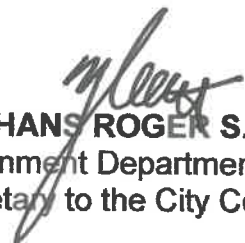
SEC. 17. Effectivity Clause. – This ordinance shall take effect upon approval and publication in a newspaper of general circulation or official city bulletin.

This Ordinance was finally enacted by the City Council of Manila on May 11, 2026.

PRESIDED BY:


ANGELA LEI "Chi" Atienza
Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:


ATTY. HANS ROGER S. LUNA
City Government Department Head III
(Secretary to the City Council)

APPROVED BY HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR, ON MAY 28 2026


FRANCISCO "ISKO MORENO" DOMAGOSO
Mayor
City of Manila

ATTESTED:


MANUEL M. ZARCAL
Secretary to the Mayor

CLN: jhb/md/agv/egv/asr