



Republic of the Philippines
CITY COUNCIL
City of Manila

REGULAR SESSION NO. 90

13TH CITY COUNCIL

Begun and held in the City Council on Thursday,
the thirteenth day of November, Two Thousand Twenty-Five

ORDINANCE NO. 9204

AN ORDINANCE STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY AND PRIORITY PASSAGE OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES IN THE CITY OF MANILA, ALSO, PROVIDING LOCAL PROTOCOLS, EMERGENCY CORRIDORS, ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS AND PENALTIES THEREOF, OR OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE RIGHT-OF-WAY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MANILA"

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Majority Floor Leader and **HON. TIMOTHY OLIVER "Toi" I. ZARCAL**, President Pro-
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Sections 5 and 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to life and health of the people, and that the maintenance of peace and order and the protection of life, liberty, and property are essential to national development.

Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", empowers local government units to exercise police power to promote the general welfare, including the protection of the health, safety, and convenience of their inhabitants.

Republic Act No. 4136, or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code, specifically Section 43(b) and Section 49, mandates that all motorists shall yield to the right-of-way of ambulances, fire trucks, and police vehicles when on official business by using audible and/or visual signals, by pulling to the right, clearing intersections, stopping, and remaining stopped until the emergency vehicle has safely passed.

The Land Transportation Office (LTO) reiterates in its Driver Education and Examination Program that all motorists have the duty to yield and stop for emergency vehicles using sirens and flashing lights, emphasizing that failure to do so constitutes a traffic violation and endangers public safety.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has clarified that motorists who change lanes or cross intersections solely to give way to ambulances, police, or fire vehicles responding to emergencies shall not be penalized under the No Contact Apprehension Program (NCAP), and that emergency vehicles on official response are exempt therefrom, thereby removing any deterrent to compliance.

The City of Manila Traffic Code (Ordinance No. 8092) and related ordinances, including Ordinance Nos. 8676 and 8696, provide the general framework for local traffic management and the implementation of NCAP, yet there remains a need to update and strengthen local protocols to operationalize and enforce priority passage for emergency vehicles across all city roads and corridors.

Ensuring the rapid and unobstructed movement of ambulances, fire trucks, and police vehicles - particularly within congested areas, hospitals, fire stations, and precincts - is vital to saving lives, protecting property, and maintaining public order, as delays in emergency response directly endanger the health, safety, and welfare of the people.

The City of Manila recognizes that the protection of human life must take precedence in traffic management, thus it is imperative to establish clear local mechanisms, including emergency corridors, intersections, clearing protocols, harmonized enforcement, and public education, to complement national laws and ensure timely and effective emergency response.

It has been the policy of the City of Manila in consonance to the generally accepted principles laid down by national laws, to uphold the sanctity of human life, by guaranteeing the immediate, safe and unimpeded passage of all ambulance, fire trucks police vehicles responding to emergencies, accidents, disasters and other natural/man-made calamities.

The City of Manila recognizes that in moments of peril – when life hangs in the balance, when every second determines survival or loss – swift passage means saving lives.


ROSALINO "JHUN" P. IBAY, JR.
Councilor, First District
Manila

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Ordinance shall be known as “**THE EMERGENCY VEHICLE RIGHT-OF-WAY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MANILA 2026**”

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms are hereby defined:

- a) **Emergency Vehicle** – refers to any motor vehicle used for emergency response, including ambulances, fire trucks, and police vehicles, while on official duty and equipped with audible sirens and/or flashing emergency lights authorized by law.
- b) **Ambulance** – a vehicle designed, equipped, and licensed under Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2018-0001, intended to transport or render care to patients in need of emergency medical attention.
- c) **Official Emergency Response** – the lawful operation of an emergency vehicle in response to an actual or imminent emergency such as a fire, accident, crime, disaster, or medical emergency.
- d) **Priority Passage** – the right-of-way granted to an emergency vehicle responding to an emergency call, with its siren and/or flashing lights activated, requiring all other motorists to yield.
- e) **Emergency Corridor** – a clearly identified road, lane, or route within the City of Manila designated for the quick and unimpeded movement of emergency vehicles.
- f) **Obstruction** – any act or omission that tends to block, delay, or interfere with the movement of an emergency vehicle, including failure to yield, illegal parking, vending, or crowding along emergency corridors.

SEC. 3. Coverage. – This Ordinance shall apply to all public and private roads, streets, alleys, intersections, bridges, and public areas within the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Manila, including national roads passing through the city.

It shall bind all motorists, pedestrians, parking operators, and public transport drivers, as well as all departments and agencies involved in traffic management and emergency operations.

SEC. 4. Duties of Motorists and Road Users. – To ensure the unhampered movement of emergency vehicles, every motorist shall observe the following rules:

- a) **Yield Immediately** – Upon hearing a siren or seeing flashing red or blue lights from an approaching ambulance, fire truck, or police vehicle, a driver whose vehicle tends to obstruct, impede or delay the approaching emergency vehicle shall immediately yield his right-of-way in favor of the former.
- b) **Pull to the Right and Stop** – The driver mentioned in the preceding number, shall pull the vehicle as close as possible to the right-hand edge of the roadway, clear any intersection, and stop completely until the emergency vehicle has passed.
- c) **Remain Stopped Until Clear** – No motorist shall resume movement or enter an intersection until the emergency vehicle has passed and it is safe to do so.

- d) **Do Not Obstruct or Tailgate** – It is unlawful to follow closely behind, race, or attempt to gain advantage by staying near an emergency vehicle.
- e) **Keep Emergency Corridors Clear** – Motorists shall avoid stopping, parking, or waiting within designated emergency corridors, hospital driveways, fire-station exits, or police station gates.
- f) **Pedestrian Duty** – Pedestrians and bystanders shall move to the nearest sidewalk or safe area upon the approach of an emergency vehicle.

Violation of these duties shall constitute obstruction and is punishable under Section 10 hereof.

SEC. 5. Establishment of Emergency Corridors and Signage. –

- a) **Designation.** – The Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau (MTPB), in coordination with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Manila Police District (MPD), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and the Department of Health (DOH)-accredited hospitals, shall identify and designate Emergency Corridors within a 100 to 200-meter radius of every hospital, fire station, and police precinct.
- b) **Signage and Markings.** – Each corridor shall bear standardized signage reading “EMERGENCY CORRIDOR – YIELD TO AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE VEHICLES”, with corresponding pavement markings maintained by the City Engineering Office.
- c) **Clear-Zone Policy.** – Emergency corridors shall be free from parked vehicles, sidewalk vendors, loading bays, or other obstructions at all times.
- d) **Publication.** – The MTPB shall publish and update an official Emergency Corridor Map every year for information and enforcement purposes.

SEC. 6. Traffic Management and Signal Priority. –

- a) **Traffic Control.** – The MTPB may temporarily stop, divert, or hold traffic to clear the way for an emergency vehicle.
- b) **Coordination with MMDA.** – The MTPB shall coordinate with the MMDA for intersections controlled by the latter regarding the implementation of this Ordinance.
- c) **Police Assistance.** – Traffic enforcers and police officers on duty are authorized to escort or clear routes for emergency vehicles when necessary to prevent congestion or delay.
- d) **Public Safety Reminder.** – Even with priority passage, drivers of emergency vehicles shall exercise due care and reduce speed when crossing red lights or blind intersections to prevent accidents.

SEC. 7. Duties of Emergency Vehicle Operators. –

- a) **Authorized Use of Sirens and Lights.** – Ambulances, police cars, and fire trucks shall use sirens and flashing lights only when responding to actual emergencies or while transporting patients, suspects, or fire equipment on urgent missions.

- b) **Professional Conduct.** – Drivers of ambulances and fire trucks must secure the necessary training from a reputable or accredited agency or institution for safety and to avoid reckless driving that endangers pedestrians and property.
- c) **Coordination with MTPB.** – Hospitals, police stations, and fire stations shall notify the MTPB dispatcher when multiple emergency vehicles are expected to traverse major thoroughfares, to allow real-time traffic clearing.
- d) **Misuse Prohibited.** – Unauthorized use of sirens, blinkers, or emergency markings for non-official purposes shall be subject to national penalties under existing laws and regulations.
- e) **False Representation** – Any individual using a vehicle, whether Private or Public, that pretending an emergency response thereby fooling the public into believing the existence of an emergency, shall be charged in violation of this Ordinance.

SEC. 8. Harmonization with NCAP and Automated Traffic Systems. –

- a) **Protection of Yielding Motorists.** – No motorist shall be cited under the No Contact Apprehension Program (NCAP) or any similar automated system for crossing a solid line, entering an intersection, or changing lanes solely to yield to an approaching emergency vehicle using audible and/or visual signals.
- b) **Automatic Voiding of Citations.** – The MTPB-NCAP Division shall, upon verification from CCTV or emergency dispatch logs, void or cancel any citation issued under such circumstances.
- c) **System Integration.** – The City shall adopt a real-time verification protocol between emergency dispatch centers and NCAP databases to flag periods of emergency runs and prevent wrongful citation.

SEC. 9. Enforcement and Penalties. –

- a) **Authority to Enforce.** – The MTPB, with assistance from the MPD and BFP, shall enforce this Ordinance. They may direct vehicles to yield, clear intersections, and remove obstructions during emergency responses.
- b) **Specific Violations and Penalties.**
 - i. **Failure to Yield or Obstruction of Emergency Vehicle:** Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) for the first offense; Four Thousand Pesos (PhP4,000.00) for the second offense; Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) and mandatory attendance in a road-safety seminar for the third and subsequent offenses.
 - ii. **Tailgating or Chasing Emergency Vehicle:** Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) per offense.
 - iii. **Illegal Parking or Obstruction within Emergency Corridor:** Two Thousand Pesos (PhP2,000.00) per offense and immediate towing of the vehicle at its owner's expense.
 - iv. **Any person found guilty of Section 7, Paragraph (e) hereof,** shall be meted with a penalty of fine which are as follows: Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) for the first offense; Four Thousand Pesos (PhP4,000.00) for the second offense; Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) and mandatory attendance in a road-safety seminar for the third and subsequent offenses.

- c) Issuance of Citation. – Violations shall be recorded in an Official Traffic Citation Ticket, indicating date, time, location, and the officer's name and badge number.
- d) Administrative Nature. – All fines collected shall accrue to the City's general fund, without prejudice to criminal prosecution under Republic Act No. 4136 or other applicable laws.

SEC. 10. Appeal and Due-Process Mechanism. –

- a) Right to Appeal. – Any person apprehended under this Ordinance may file a written appeal within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the citation before the MTPB Director or his/her duly authorized representative.
- b) Grounds for Appeal. – Appeals may be based on:
 - i. absence of violation or mistaken identity;
 - ii. technical or procedural defects in the apprehension.
 - iii. justified act of yielding to an emergency vehicle recorded as a violation; or
 - iv. other substantial grounds consistent with due process.
- c) Resolution Period. – The MTPB Director shall decide the appeal within fifteen (15) days from filing. Failure to decide within such period shall be deemed a favorable resolution to the appellant.
- d) Appeal. – Any aggrieved party may elevate the matter to the Office of the City Mayor within ten (10) days from receipt of the MTPB's decision. The mayor's decision shall be final and executory without prejudice to judicial remedies.
- e) Suspension of Payment. – Filing of timely appeal shall suspend the payment of fines until final resolution.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Ordinance, the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau (MTPB), in coordination with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Department of Health (DOH), the Manila Police District (MPD), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the City Engineering Office, and representatives of DOH-accredited hospitals and ambulance service providers, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) necessary to carry out the intent and provisions of this Ordinance.

The IRR shall, among others, include detailed guidelines on:

- a) The designation, maintenance, and mapping of Emergency Corridors and corresponding signage and markings;
- b) Standardized dispatcher coordination and verification protocols among MTPB, MMDA, MPD, BFP, and hospitals;
- c) Integration of NCAP verification systems to ensure non-penalization of yielding motorists;
- d) Mandatory training and orientation programs for traffic enforcers, ambulance drivers, and emergency personnel; and

- e) Continuous public information, advocacy, and education campaigns to promote awareness of right-of-way rules for emergency vehicles.

All concerned offices and agencies shall ensure that the IRR is consistent with national laws, promotes inter-agency coordination, and strengthens public compliance and safety.

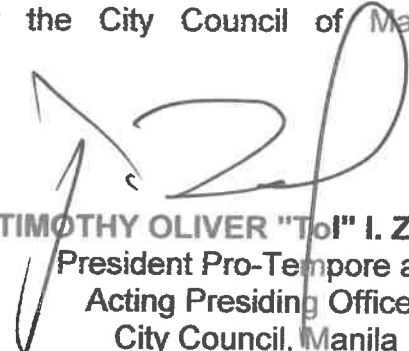
SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the remaining portions hereof, which shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. – All ordinances, executive orders, resolutions, circulars, or regulations, issued previously by the City of Manila or parts thereof that are inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly, insofar as they are inconsistent herewith.

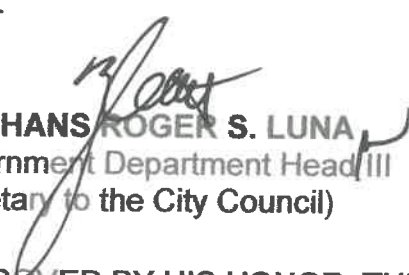
SECTION 14. Effectivity Clause. – This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila and posting in at least two (2) conspicuous public places within the city, in accordance with Section 59(c) of Republic Act No. 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991) and other applicable laws.

This Ordinance was finally enacted by the City Council of Manila on July 13, 2026.

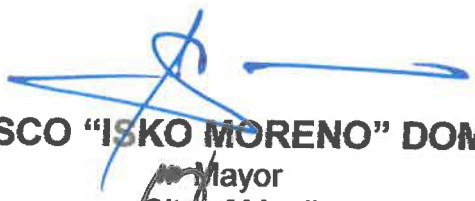
PRESIDED BY:


TIMOTHY OLIVER "Toi" I. ZARCAL
President Pro-Tempore and
Acting 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 AUG 05 2026


FRANCISCO "ISKO MORENO" DOMAGOSO

Mayor
City of Manila

ATTESTED:


MANUEL M. ZARCAL
Secretary to the Mayor
CLN: jhb/mmd/agv/egv/eyv