

Date Posted: 4/19/23

Date Published:

Date Effectivity:

Republic of the Philippines
City of Iloilo
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 15th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 11TH SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF ILOILO, PHILIPPINES, HELD AT THE SESSION HALL, 6TH FLOOR CITY HALL BUILDING, PLAZA LIBERTAD, ILOILO CITY, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023.

PRESENT:

HON. JEFFREY P. GANZON
City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

Hon. Urminico M. Baronda, Jr.	Member
Hon. Sedfrey L. Cabaluna	Member
Hon. Romel D. Duron	Member
Hon. Ely A. Estante, Jr.	Member
Hon. Rudolph Jeffrey O. Ganzon	Member
Hon. Leila G. Luntao, SK Federation President Ex Officio	Member
Hon. Plaridel C. Nava II	Member
Hon. Maria Irene D. Ong, Liga ng mga Barangay President Ex Officio	Member
Hon. Rex Marcus B. Sarabia, Acting Floor Leader	Member
Hon. Candice Magdalane A. Tupas	Member
Hon. Johnny Y. Young	Member
Hon. Alan A. Zaldivar	Member

ABSENT:

Hon. Frances Grace V. Parcon-Torres (Maternity Leave)	Member
Hon. Jose Maria Miguel S. Trefias (On-Leave)	Member

REGULATION ORDINANCE NO. 2023-050
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COCKPITS/COCKFIGHTS IN THE CITY OF ILOILO

Sponsored by Hon. Romel D. Duron, seconded by Hon. Leila G. Luntao and Hon. Johnny Y. Young;

WHEREAS, Cockfighting is a popular traditional and customary form of recreation and entertainment among Filipinos during legal holidays, local fiestas, agricultural, commercial and industrial fairs, carnivals or expositions;

WHEREAS, by reason of the aforesated meaning and connotation in relation to Filipino customs and traditions, it should not be exploited as an object of commercialism or business enterprise, nor made a tool of uncontrolled gambling, but more of as a vehicle for the preservation and perpetuation of native Filipino heritage, thereby enhance our national identity;

WHEREAS, Section 458 paragraph 3 of the Local Government Code of 1991 empowers the Sangguniang Panlungsod to enact ordinances granting franchises and authorizing the issuance of permits or licenses;




WHEREAS, aforementioned provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 also empowered the Sangguniang Panlungsod to grant franchise for the establishment, operation and maintenance of cockpits, regulate cockfighting activities and breeding of fighting cocks within its territorial jurisdiction, provided that existing rights should not be prejudiced;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree Number 449 otherwise known as the Cockfighting Law of 1974, was enacted to govern the establishment, operation, maintenance and ownership of cockpits;

SECTION 1. TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as "The Cockfighting Ordinance of 2023 of Iloilo City".

SECTION 2. SCOPE AND COVERAGE: This Ordinance shall govern the establishment, operation, and maintenance of cockpits and cockfights in the City of Iloilo including the existing cockpits at the time of its approval.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms shall mean and be understood as follows:

- 
- a.) **BET MANAGER (kasador)** - a person who calls and takes care of bets from the owner of both gamecocks and those of other bettors before he orders commencement of the cockfight and thereafter distributes winning bets to the winners after deducting 10% "plasada".
 - b.) **BET TAKER (kristo)** - A person who participates in cockfight and with the use of money or other things of value, bets with the bettor or through other bet takers and wins or loses his bets depending upon the result of the cockfight as announced by the referee or sentenciador.
 - c. **BARANGAY FIESTA**- is a religious celebration by the devotees in honor of a Saint which those festivities mostly coincide with the day of the patron saint of a particular barangay.
 - d. **COCKER(aficionado)** - A person who participates and bets in cockfighting as a sport, amusement, recreation or form of relaxation.
 - e. **COCKFIGHT (sultada)**- The actual fight or physical combat of two(2) pitted or evenly matched game cocks, where bets on either side are laid.
 - f.) **COCKFIGHTING (sabong)** -shall embrace and mean the commonly known game or term "cockfighting derby", pintakasi, tupada or its equivalent terms in different Philippine localities.
 - g.) **COCKPIT (sabungan)**- a properly enclosed or fenced premises or compound provided with one or more gates or doors for definite points of entrance and exit and licensed in accordance herewith for the holding of cockfighting derby, pintakasi, tupada or its equivalent terms in different Philippine localities.
- 
- 

- h.) **DISTRICT FIESTA** - a religious festival or celebration, especially falls on a saint's day which those festivities mostly coincide with the day of the patron saint of a particular administrative district in the City of Iloilo including its neighboring barangays within its territorial jurisdiction;
- i. **FRANCHISE**- is a right or privilege, affected with public interest which is conferred upon private persons or corporations, under such terms and conditions as the government and its political subdivisions may impose in the interest of public welfare, security, and safety.
- j. **GAFFER (mananari)** - a person knowledgeable in the technique of arming fighting cocks with gaff or gaffs on either or both legs.
- k. **GAMECOCK** - domesticated fowls, whether imported or locally bred, as well as the native fighting cock indigenous to the country, especially bred, trained and conditioned for actual cockfighting or for propagation breeding purposes for eventual use in cockfighting.
- l. **HANDLER (sultador)**- a person who personally takes physical custody and control inside the arena of a pitted gamecock and who actually releases the same for actual fight and combat in a cockfight.
- m. **LOCAL DERBY** - a cockfight promotion participated in by local participants.
- n. **PIT MANAGER**- a person who professionally, regularly and habitually manages a cockpit and cockfights therein held. He may not be the owner of the cockpit himself.
- o. **PROMOTER** - A person licensed by the City Government who is engaged in the convening, meeting, holding in the celebration of a specially programmed and arranged cockfighting like local derbies and competitions, special matched encounters, pintakasi and ordinary fights or cockfights.
- p. **REFEREE (sentenciador)** - a person who watches and oversees the progress of the cockfight and decides its result by announcing the winner or declaring a draw or no contest game.
- q.) **REGULAR COCKFIGHT** - a cockfight held Sundays or Legal Holidays;
- r.) **SPECIAL COCKFIGHT** - a cockfight held on days other than Sundays and Legal Holidays.
- s.) **SPECIAL PERMIT** - permit secured from the City Mayor to hold cockfighting on days other than Sundays and Legal Holidays.

SECTION 4. No person shall be allowed to establish, operate, and maintain a cockpit in the City of Iloilo unless said person is a Filipino citizen, a bona fide resident of this City and not otherwise disqualified to conduct business.

In case of cooperatives or corporations, the capitalization should be 100% Filipino-owned and formed, organized and established under the provisions of existing laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 5. No cockpit shall be allowed to be established, operated and maintained in Iloilo City unless a Mayor's permit is first secured.

SECTION 6. Cockpits shall be constructed and operated only within approximated areas as prescribed by zoning laws and applicable Ordinances. No cockpit shall be established, maintained and /or operated within the radius of one hundred (100) lineal meters from any existing hospitals, school buildings, churches or other public buildings. Approval or issuance of Building Permit for the construction of renovation/improvement of cockpits shall be made by the Iloilo City Government Building Officials in accordance with the provisions of the National Building Code, as amended, and local ordinances rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. Cockfights may be held only in cockpits duly licensed under the provisions of this ordinance.

A. Regular cockfights may be held only during Sundays and Legal Holidays provided, however, that no cockfights shall be held on:

- 1. Holy Thursday*
- 2. Good Friday*
- 3. Philippine Independence Days (June 12)*
- 4. November 30 (National Heroes Day)*
- 5. Rizal Day (December 30)*
- 6. Election/Referendum Day*
- 7. Registration Day on such election/referendum*
- 8. Such other dates prescribed by the City Government*

B. The City Mayor may issue special permits for special cockfights upon pervious application and upon Resolution of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Iloilo City for the following purposes to wit:

- 1. For the support of national and local fund raising campaigns for charitable purposes as maybe authorized by the Mayor.*

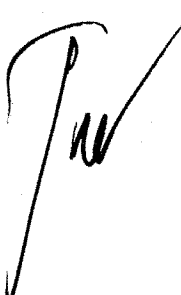
C. For barangay or district fiestas and special cockfights, the operators and/or promoters of cockfight/derbies of a licensed cockpit shall comply the following: (a) submit their letter of application for a special permit indicating the schedule of event to be held for a period not exceeding three (3) days addressed to the City Mayor in order to conduct cockfighting event; (b) upon approval of Resolution of No Objection (RONO) of the Sangguniang Panlungsod concerned, they shall comply necessary permit prior conduct of such event.

D. The application for special permit in relation to the barangay or district fiestas shall be applied two (2) weeks before the scheduled cockfight/derbies.

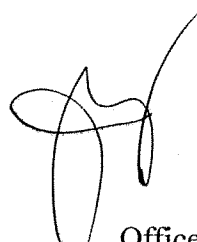
SECTION 8. LICENSING OF COCKPITS. The City Mayor shall have the sole authority to issue the permit required under this Ordinance subject to the limitations herein provided.

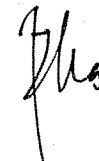
SECTION 9. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING OF COCKPITS. The following requirements must be fully complied with before a license may be issued.

A. **NEW LICENSE.** Every application for new business license to operate or to maintain a cockpit shall be submitted to the Office of the City Mayor accompanied by the following:

- 
1. Location and vicinity plan of the cockpit;
 2. Cockpit building plan/design as approved by the City Building Official with a certification by him to the effect that the cockpit was constructed in accordance with such approved plan/design in the area allowed by the zoning law/ordinance; a certification by the City Building Official that the location/site of the cockpit is not within a radius of one hundred (100) lineal metes from any existing hospital, school building, church or other public buildings;
 3. Official receipts showing payments of City Taxes, fees and other levies prescribed by existing Ordinances;
 4. A Health Certificate for organic employees
 5. Brgy. Clearance for Business;
 6. Fire Safety Inspection Certificate
 7. Franchise Ordinance from the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Iloilo City

B. **ANNUAL RENEWAL.** Every application for the annual renewal of a business license to operate or manage a cockpit shall be submitted to the Office of the City Mayor not later than January 20th of each year and shall be accompanied with the following:

- 
1. Official receipts showing payments of prescribed City Taxes, fees and other levies.
 2. In case the cockpit was constructed more than ten (10) years before the date of renewal application, a certification from the City Building Official to the effect that such cockpit is free from material, structural or other physical hazard;
 3. Certification from Local City Health Office that the cockpits have complied the existing health code and health standards;
 4. Brgy. Clearance for Business;
 5. Fire Safety Inspection Certificate.



SECTION 10). REGISTRATION OF COCKPITS - All cockpits shall register with the Office of the City Mayor and shall not be allowed to operate without the required permit to be secured annually not later than January 20th of the incoming year.

In order to secure a registration certificate, the applicant should submit the following documents:

- A. An application stating therein the name of the cockpit, the name of the owner/owners, the name of the operator/manager, the name of the licensee, and the mailing address of the above mentioned persons;
- B. A copy of the location and vicinity plan of the cockpit
- C. A copy of the cockpit building plan;
- D. A certified copy of the city license;
- E. A copy of the health certificate of organic employees
- F. A copy of the current mayor's permit;
- G. Two (2) perspective photographs of the cockpit;
- H. A list of all duly licensed personnel and copy of their respective licenses, and
- I. A copy of Police and NBI Clearance of Organic Employees.

SECTION 11. COCKFIGHTING OFFICIALS. The following cockfighting officials are required to register with the Office of the Mayor:

- A. Promoter
- B. Pit Manager
- C. Referees(sentenciador)
- D. Bet managers(kasador)
- E. Bet takers(kristo)
- F. Gaffers (mananari)

They shall not officiate as such without first securing a Mayor's Permit which is renewable every year on or before January 20th of the incoming year, provided, however, that in the event any of the persons enumerated above shall officiate or function as such without the permit required under this Ordinance, they shall be punished, upon conviction, with a fine in the sum of not less Five Hundred Pesos(500.00php) but not more than Two Thousand Pesos (2,000.00Php) or suffer imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than three (3) months, or both at the discretion of the court.

The Mayor may revoke or cause the revocation of such Permit together with the corresponding license issued by the City Business Permit and Licensing Office even before its expiration when public interest so demands.

SECTION 12. FEES. Without prejudice to other taxes, fees and other levies due in accordance with Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the local Government Code, as well as the fees imposed by the Bureau of Animal Industry, the following fees shall be paid annually to the City Treasury upon issuance of permit from the Business Permit and Licensing Office, not later than January 20:

a.	Application filing fee	P 110.00
b.	For cockpit registration (annually)	P1,100.00
c.	For promoter of local derby or special cockfights	P1,100.00/day
d.	REGISTRATION OF COCKPIT PERSONNEL	annually
	1. Promoter	P 220.00
	2. Pit manager	P165.00
	3. Referee (sentenciador)	P110.00
	4. Bet Manager (kasador)	P110.00
	5. Bat Taker (kristo)	P82.50
	6. Gaffer (mananari)	P82.50

e.	SPECIAL DERBY ASSESMENT PER WINNING COCK	
	1. The amount of One Hundred Pesos (Php100.00) per fight shall be collected and paid to the City Treasurer.	P100
	2. In the implementation of this paragraph, the City Government authorized representative shall attend the derby, collect the special derby assessment fee prescribed in paragraph (e) above and issue the corresponding Official receipts. He shall submit to the City Treasurer's Office, together with the copies of the Official receipts in accordance with existing rules and regulations.	

SECTION 13. COMPLAINTS AND PROTEST. The Office of the Mayor shall take cognizance of complaints and protest related to the operation and management of cockpits or the conduct of cockfights and violations of these rules and regulations, which complaints or protest must be in writing and verified and under oath and the Office of the Mayor shall, upon approval of this Ordinance, promulgate the rules and procedures governing the disposition of such cases.

SECTION 14. OTHER GAMBLING GAMES PROHIBITED. All gambling games of any kind shall at anytime be hereby prohibited at the premises of the cockpits. The owner, manager or lessee/s of such cockpits and the violators of this provisions shall be prosecuted and held criminally liable under the provisions of existing laws.

SECTION 15. PROHIBITION AGAINST MINORS, No person less than eighteen (18) years of age shall be allowed inside the premises of the cockpits. The operator, manager or licensee shall be responsible for strict compliance with these rules and violation thereof is punishable by suspension or cancellation of license to operate cockpits without prejudice to criminal prosecution under existing Ordinance or laws.

SECTION 16. ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES. Consonant with the Filipino trait of honesty and tradition of fair play, the Office of the City Mayor shall adopt such measure as to obviate the use of fraudulent means or manipulation in all aspects of cockfighting. Persons employing such means or manipulation shall be prosecuted against in accordance with our penal laws as maybe warranted by the prevailing circumstances.

SECTION 17. PENALTY. - Any person who shall operate any cockpit or promote, hold or stage cockfights without first securing the permits required under this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than Three Thousand Pesos (3,000.00Php) or more than Five Thousand Pesos (5,000.00Php) or imprisonment of not less than three (3) months but not more than six (6) months, or both at the discretion of the Court.

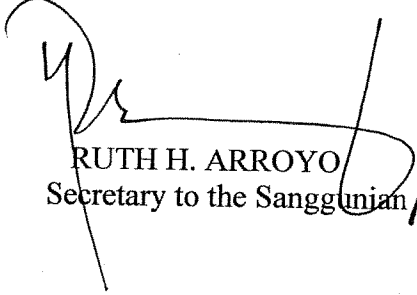
SECTION 18. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - if any provision of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected therewith shall be in full force and effect.

SECTION 19. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All ordinances and resolutions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

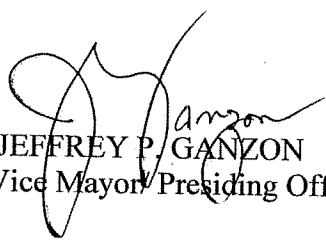
SECTION 20. EFFECTIVITY. This ordinance shall be published in the newspaper of general circulation in the City of Iloilo shall take effect ten (10) days after publication hereof.

ENACTED. April 12, 2023.

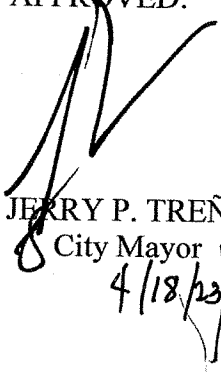
I hereby certify to the correctness of the above-quoted ordinance.


RUTH H. ARROYO
Secretary to the Sanggunian *MA/17/23*

ATTESTED AND CERTIFIED
TO BE DULY ENACTED:


JEFFREY P. GANZON
City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:


JERRY P. TREÑAS
City Mayor *4/18/23*