

SPPO NO. _____
Series of 2017

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 13 of the Philippine Constitution of 1987 mandates the State recognition of the vital role of the youth in nation-building and promotion and protection of their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being and states further its role to inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 8044 otherwise known as the "Youth in Nation-Building Act of 1995" creates the structures to implement a comprehensive and coordinated program for the youth and gives recognition to the youth's responsibility in fulfilling their vital role in nation-building;

WHEREAS, the development and welfare of the youth sector in the City of General Santos in terms of promotion of their well-being and total development, and their protection from exploitation, abuse, hazards and other circumstances prejudicial to their physical, mental, emotional, social and moral development are priorities of the City Government ;

WHEREAS, in the City's pursuit for progress and development, the youth sector must be fully assimilated in the mainstream so as to ensure an improved quality of life and youth-friendly environment where there are guarantees for educational opportunities, economic privileges, civil and political rights;

WHEREAS, to further realize these development approaches for the city's youth constituents an ordinance shall be enacted by the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* for this purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of City Councilor _____, duly seconded by City Councilors _____, be it –

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to enact the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. _____
Series of 2017

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE IN THE CITY OF GENERAL SANTOS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of General Santos City that:

Article I

TITLE, POLICY, PRINCIPLES AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 1. Title. - This ordinance, for purpose of brevity, shall be known as the "General Santos City Youth Welfare and Development Code".

Section 2. Policy. - The City recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being and shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Section 3. Guiding Principles for the Youth. -

- a. The rights of the youth as stipulated in the Constitution and other laws shall be upheld at all times;
- b. Every youth has the right to be informed of their inherent rights as stipulated in the Constitution and other related laws;
- c. Every youth has the right to bodily integrity and to the means necessary for the proper development of life, particularly food, clothing, shelter, medical care, rest, and the necessary social services;
- d. Every youth has the right not to be discriminated, intimidated, abused, bullied or humiliated;
- e. Every youth has the right to quality and responsive education from nursery to tertiary level, incorporating therein multicultural and multilingual curricula.
- f. Every youth has the right to freely and fully participate in the political processes of his community and country;
- g. Every youth has the right to economic development based on the precepts of justice and equity;
- h. Every youth's right is coupled with a moral and legal obligation that must be fulfilled;
- i. Every youth has the right to exercise freedom of religion; and
- j. Every youth has the right to a decent job at a livable wage and provided with other additional compensations and benefits provided by laws.

Section 4. Definition of Terms. – When used in this ordinance, the following words shall mean:

- a. Youth – as defined in Republic Act 8044 otherwise known as The Youth in Nation-Building Act of 1995, and for the purpose of this Code, shall refer to those persons whose ages range from fifteen(15) to thirty (30) years old;
- b. Youth of School Age - shall refer to all youth whose ages range from 15-25 years;
- c. Minor youth - shall include all youth whose ages range from 15-17 years;

d. Working youth - shall refer to all youth whose ages range from 18-30 years who are employed either on a regular or temporary basis;

e. Out of School Youth - refers to all youth of school age, whether organized or not, who are unable to avail of the formal school system or who have dropped out from all levels of formal education;

f. In - School Youth - refers to all youth of school age, whether organized or not, presently enrolled with any educational, vocational institution which include but not limited to the following school organizations (academic or non-academic), student government, fraternities and sororities;

g. Special Youth - refers to youth with disabilities or those who suffered physical defects, as well as youth with special needs which include but not limited to those who are drug dependents, children in need of special protection, in conflict with the law, and those caught in armed conflicts;

h. Youth Organizations - are organizations whose majority of membership are youth and might be based in educational institution but whose program are not solely for educational advancement or may be community-based whose members are not all out-of-school youth;

i. Civil Rights - are those rights of the youth to be protected against all forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination in situations where the youth is considered in extremely difficult circumstance;

j. Council – refers to Local Youth Development Council of the City of General Santos;

k. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - pertain to the access of the youth to educational opportunities, relevant information, leisure, cultural activities and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

l. Political Rights - are those rights which provide the youth the freedom to express themselves on matters affecting their lives;

m. Anti-Social Related Activities - are those acts against property, chastity and person which include but are not limited to the following:

1. Petty crimes such as snatching, shoplifting, misrepresentations;
2. Using and pushing of prohibited drugs;
3. Selling or distribution of lewd/obscene reading materials;
4. Pimping for young and adult prostitutes, sexual perversions and doing or participating in obscene shows;
5. Gambling of any form;
6. Rape and incest; and
7. All other circumstances as defined in the existing laws.

n. Hazing - shall mean an initiation rite being conducted as a prerequisite for admission as member in a fraternity, sorority, or organization by placing the recruit, neophyte, or applicant in an embarrassing or humiliating situation such as forcing him/her to do menial, silly foolish, and other similar tasks or activities, or otherwise subjecting him/her to physical suffering or injury.

Section 5. Development Program for the Youth. - A comprehensive program for the youth shall be formulated on the succeeding year from the effectivity of this Code by the General Santos City Local Youth Development Council, after consultation with youth

groups, other government agencies, private sector, and non-government organizations. Incorporated herein are the following, among others:

- a. Formulation, approval and implementation of the City Youth Development Plan for the General Santos City's youth and shall be reviewed and formulated a year before the end of its duration;
- b. A local study on the "Situation of Youth in General Santos City," which identifies priority needs, prevailing attitudes and values of youth, existing services and gaps in the delivery of services of basic youth needs, every three (3) years thereafter; and
- c. Programs and interventions on youth participation in sports; culture and the arts; leadership programs, locally, nationally and internationally; youth engagement in productive employment, education, livelihood services, cultural exchange, benchmarking and in gender development by laying down the necessary mechanisms and frameworks for policy direction, innovation and convergence.

Article II

LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Section 6. The General Santos City Local Youth Development Council. –The General Santos City Local Youth Development Council (GSCLYDC) shall be created. It shall be responsible for the formulation of policies and implementation of youth development programs, projects and activities in coordination with various government and non-government organizations. Its objectives are the following:

a. General Objectives:

1. To develop and harness the full potential of the youth as responsible partners in nation-building;
2. To encourage intensive and active participation of youth in all government and non-government programs, projects and activities affecting them;
3. To harmonize all government and non-government initiatives for the development of the youth sector; and
4. To supplement government appropriations for youth promotion and development with funds from other sources;

b. Specific Objectives:

1. To broaden and strengthen the services provided by the national government agencies, local government units and private agencies to young people;
2. To provide information mechanism on youth opportunities on the areas of education, employment, livelihood, physical and mental health, capability-building and networking;
3. To increase the spirit of volunteerism among the youth of the City particularly in the maintenance of peace and order and preservation, conservation and protection of the environment and natural resources within their locality;
4. To provide monitoring and coordinating mechanisms for youth programs, projects and activities; and

5. To provide a venue for the active participation of the youth in cultural, eco-tourism awareness program, sports development and leadership training.

Section 7. Composition of the Council. – The Council shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson : City Mayor

Vice Chairperson : The City Mayor is authorized to appoint his vice-chairperson from among the Council members from government agencies.

Members:

- a. City Planning and Development Officer;
- b. City Social Welfare and Development Officer;
- c. City Health Officer;
- d. The Schools Division Superintendent or duly designated representative;
- e. Youth Affairs and Development Office;
- f. Population Commission Officer;
- g. Sports and Youth Committee of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*;
- h. Federation of Youth Organization or Federation of Student Council;
- i. Church-based organization and the community-based organization;
- j. Private Schools Basic Education Association;
- k. Young professionals and Entrepreneurs;
- l. Youth representing Person with Disability (PWD);
- m. Youth IP and Cultural Communities;
- n. Organization of out-of- school youth;
- o. Pag- asa Youth Association of the Philippines, Inc. representative;
- p. General Santos City 4H Club;
- q. City Treasurer's Office

Section 8. Function of the General Santos City Local Youth Development Council.
- The following shall be the functions of the General Santos City Local Youth Development Council:

- a. To formulate policies and component programs in coordination with the various government agencies handling youth-related programs, projects and activities;
- b. To coordinate and harmonize activities of all agencies and organizations in the City that engage in youth development programs;
- c. To develop and provide support for the development and coordination of youth projects and design strategies to gain support and participation of the youth;
- d. To accredit sports and recreational centers, hotels, training centers and other institutions providing services to the youth as identified in this Code;
- e. To assist the national government and non-government agencies in the promotion of programs, projects and activities in the local level;
- f. To assist various government and non-government agencies in the identification and nomination of qualified participants to different programs, projects and activities;
- g. To conduct fund raising programs. The City Mayor, as representative of the city government, shall likewise receive donations, bequests, and may enter

into contracts with other government and non-government agencies necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of this Code upon the authority of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*;

- h. To recommend youth programs and project proposals to appropriate government agencies and non-government organizations necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives of this Code;
- i. To accredit training pools for the purpose of assisting line agencies in implementing training and capability-building programs;
- j. To create a research team that will formulate a mechanism to come up with a Local Youth Situationer;
- k. To establish youth centers as deemed necessary;
- l. To monitor the implementation of programs and projects at the local level;
- m. In consultation with all accredited youth organizations, develop the youth legislative agenda and advocate and/or lobby for its passage; and
- n. To perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

Section 9. Secretariat. - The Youth Affairs and Development Office shall be the secretariat of the General Santos City Local Youth Development Council.

Section 10. Local Youth Development Plan. – The Council shall formulate and adopt a City Youth Development Plan which shall be duly supported by an ordinance enacted by the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*. The said plan shall be the basis for the implementation of local youth development programs and services in coordination with the concerned agencies.

Section 11. Local Youth Congress. – The Council shall convene a local youth congress or conduct consultations with the youth at least once a year to gather information and data that shall serve as inputs in the formulation of the youth development plan of the locality. The Council shall submit a copy of all resolutions, declarations and proceedings of the local youth congress/consultations to the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* for appropriate action.

Section 12. Youth Center. – The Council may establish a Youth Center which shall be located in the city proper. The Youth Center shall operate as multi-purpose center or a one-stop shop facility.

Section 13. Meetings of the Council. – The Council shall meet at least once a month or as often as maybe deemed necessary. The Chairperson or his duly designated convener shall preside in all Council meetings.

Section 14. Responsibility of the City Mayor. – It shall be the responsibility of the City Mayor to ensure that provisions of this Code specifically those that are relative to the creation of the Council are implemented to the fullest.

Section 15. Roles and Responsibilities of Officers of the Council. The duly designated members of the Council shall include the roles and responsibilities of the officers in the internal rules and procedures of the Council as to have flexibility for the demand of the changing local conditions and situation.

The Internal Rules and Procedure shall provide for the following:

- a. Regular and special meetings;
- b. Quorum;
- c. The order and calendar of business for each meeting;
- d. Parliamentary procedures which shall include the conduct of all its members during the meeting;
- e. Disciplinary actions
- f. The manner of approving resolutions; and
- g. Such other measures as the Council may adopt.

Section 16. Committees with their Respective Duties and Functions and Composition. – The GSCLYDC shall create and adopt the following committees which shall perform and oversee the specific tasks of the Council.

- a. Advisory Committee. – An Advisory Committee shall be created to supervise and monitor the operation of the GSCLYDC. The main role of the Advisory Committee is to review the following:
 1. The operation plan and budget of the Council;
 2. Internal rules and procedure of the Council; and
 3. Accreditation process and guidelines set forth by the Accreditation Committee.

The following are the members of the Advisory Committee:

City Mayor
Chairperson of the City Council Committee on Youth and Sports Development
Chairperson of the City Council Committee on Women and Family
Chairperson of the City Council Committee on Education
The City Administrator
City Planning and Development Officer
City Social Welfare and Development Officer
Department of Interior and Local Government

- b. Accreditation Committee. – An Accreditation Committee will be convened whenever necessary to act on all applications for accreditation. It shall be composed of the following:
 1. Representative from the Youth Affairs and Development Office;
 2. Representative from the City Social Welfare and Development Office;
 3. Representative of the Chairperson of the City Council Committee on Youth and Sports;
 4. Youth representative from the GSCLYDC;
 5. Representative from the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

Section 17. Accreditation/Registration. - Only those youth groups/organizations or associations which exist in the City of General Santos shall be accredited by the Council. The requirements for accreditation/registration to the Council are as follows:

- a. Letter expressing intent for accreditation/registration;
- b. Resolution requesting for accreditation/registration of the youth group/organization/association with their official and alternate representatives;

- c. Certification of existence and veracity of information submitted to the Council from any of the following:
 1. Office of the Student Affairs or any school administrator, for the in-school youth organizations;
 2. Punong Barangay, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for the out-of-school youth, special youth, disadvantaged youth and community youth organizations;
- d. Constitution and By-Laws; if none, at least organizational policies and guidelines;
- e. List of activities undertaken for the last 12 months with financial statement, except for newly established organizations;
- f. Plan and budget of activities for the current year;
- g. If SEC registered, Certification from the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- h. List of officers and members; and
- i. Certificate of Accreditation from the National Youth Commission and Department of Labor and Employment.

To assist the youth organizations in their accreditation, the Youth Affairs and Development Office shall provide accreditation forms to interested applicants for the first year of implementation of this accreditation/registration. All documents should be forwarded to and received by the Accreditation Committee. Negative action of the Committee on application can be appealed to the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* whose decision shall be deemed final and executory.

Section 18. Rights, Duties and Obligations of Member or Accredited Organizations. – Members or accredited youth organizations shall have the following rights:

- a. The right to participate in all GSCLYDC activities;
- b. The right to avail of the services of the Local Government Unit;
- c. The right to vote and if qualified, to be voted upon; and
- d. The right to use the facilities of the Local Government Unit.

The following are the duties and responsibilities of members or accredited youth organizations:

- a. To actively participate in the activities of the Council; and
- b. To propagate by word and deed the principles, objectives, and programs of the Council.

Section 19. Incentives. - Any youth organization/association existing within the City of General Santos who failed to register or accredit are not entitled to any benefit that the City may provide and are not entitled to representation in the Council.

Section 20. Appropriation. – There is hereby authorized appropriation for the establishment of the General Santos City Local Youth Development Council.

Section 21. All other policies or laws creating organizations, councils or boards in the city which exist having similar program with the Local Youth Development Council are hereby repealed.

Section 22. Non-Partisan Nature of the GSCLYDC. - The General Santos City Local Youth Development Council shall not allow itself to be used for the purpose of partisan politics and shall adopt measures to ensure that it is adequately shielded from any political partnership or influence.

Article III **CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH**

Section 23. Prostitution and Other Sexual Abuse. - Any youth, whether male or female, who for money, profit or any other consideration or due to the coercion nor influence of any adult, syndicate or group, indulges in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct, is considered to be exploited in prostitution and other sexual abuse.

Section 24. Obscene Publications and Indecent Shows. - Any person who shall hire, employ, use, persuade, coerce or force a youth, whether live or in video, to pose or model in obscene publications or pornographic materials shall be penalized according to existing laws penalizing such acts.

Section 25. Appointment of Youth Relations Officer and Police Procedures. - The General Santos City Police Office may assign a Youth Relations Officer, preferably a female police officer, who will be tasked to handle cases involving the youth, in all of its Police Precincts in the city.

Section 26. Special Courses for PNP Members. - A special course that deals with handling abused and delinquent youth shall be designed and obligatorily given to the members of Philippine National Police in the City of General Santos. The General Santos City Police Office together with the City Social Welfare and Development Office shall be tasked to design and initiate the conduct of training programs and/or seminars on the special course.

Section 27. Police Brutality. - Police brutality, being the state or quality of being harsh, ruthless, cruel, or unrelenting to a youth who is suspected of committing crime, misdemeanor or antisocial activities during arrest, apprehension, investigation and interrogation or when applied to youth suspects under the custody of police authorities shall be prohibited and dealt with appropriate action from the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB). Case or cases of brutality of police officer(s) committed against a youth offender shall be filed in PLEB who will determine the appropriate penalty or penalties without prejudice to the provisions of the Revised Penal Code.

Section 28. It shall be the policy of the City Government to prohibit youth discrimination especially on the basis of gender and sexual orientation, social class, religion, and political affiliation.

Article IV **ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH**

Section 29. General Framework. - The development of the youth is determined by both external and internal factors, so that, it is the shared responsibility of the parents, siblings, and relatives which shall be known as the internal factor and the State, civil society, and community which shall be known as the external factor to provide the necessary environment, support, assistance and other initiatives to make the youth responsive and productive members of the society.

Section 30. The General Santos City government, representing the State, shall ensure, to the maximum extent possible, the development of the youth by providing facilities, programs and projects for the purpose and at the same time facilitate and mobilize the civil society and the community to reinforce and strengthen the initiatives for the general welfare of the youth sector.

Section 31. The General Santos City government shall formulate policies, programs, projects and initiatives to contribute to the development of the youth.

a. Education Policies.-

1. The City Government of General Santos shall allocate budget intended for the purpose of youth development and education.
2. The *Sangguniang Kabataan* or its equivalent entity shall apportion funds for educational purposes in every barangay.
3. The General Santos City Library shall ensure that there are up to date educational materials and technologies that will cater to the needs of the youth.
4. Information pertaining to governance, city projects, programs, activities, including information regarding fiscal matters shall be made accessible to the youth.
5. The *Edukasyon alang sa mga Kabus na Residente sa Gensan* (EduKaR Gensan) Scholarship Program shall ensure appropriate number of scholars from among the qualified youth of the city for access to yearly tertiary and tech-voc scholarships; and
6. The Public Employment Office (PESO) shall continue its facilities for the summer job of students and other student internship programs in order to augment the latter's educational expenses during enrolment and for other educational purposes.

b. Economic Policies.-

1. The City Government of General Santos through its appropriate agency/office shall render technical and vocational trainings to interested youth that would help them acquire new skills, and provide education and training to young entrepreneurs;
2. The City Government shall forge ties with the private sector in order to provide financial assistance to young individuals and organizations that are interested to start their own business or enter into financial enterprise;
3. The City Government shall appropriate budget for business loans for youth entrepreneurs;
4. The City Government shall prosecute the owners and cancel the business permit of institutions that would not provide a just compensation and/or benefit as mandated by law to its youth workers. It shall also require the business entity to comply within 30 days from the receipt of the complaint from the Office of the City Mayor;

5. The City Government shall periodically check all businesses that employ youth and shall see to it that the working condition/environment is youth-friendly;
6. The City Government shall ensure that no youth worker is deprived of job training, promotion, and compensation, benefit, on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, creed, civil status, ideology, or political affiliation;
7. The Public Employment Service Office (PESO) shall periodically conduct job fairs and other activities having the same nature for the purpose of offering or facilitating employment for the youth;
8. The City Agriculturist's Office shall provide training and livelihood support programs to the city's farm youth in order to generate employment and train to develop young farm entrepreneurs;
9. The Youth Affairs and Development Office shall provide community-based tech-voc and livelihood programs to the out-of-school youth and other disadvantaged youth in order that this vulnerable sector be provided with preferred tracks necessary for self-employment or industry employment, and income-generating activities; and
10. The City Government, together with the NGOs concerned, private and public offices, and other commercial and non-commercial establishments shall provide the youth opportunities for On-the-Job Trainings.

c. Health Policies. -

1. The City Government of General Santos through the City Hospital shall provide check-ups and free health orientations to youth especially on health issues concerning them;
2. The City Government shall provide counseling programs and services through the City Health Office regarding health issues concerning the youth;
3. The City Government shall allocate budget that will cater to the health needs of the youth of the city;
4. The City Government shall encourage/conduct periodic health symposium aimed in giving awareness to the youth sector of health issues and concerns that they have to learn;
5. The City Health Office shall have programs that will teach and give information to the youth about comprehensive sexuality education;
6. The City Population Management Office shall provide adolescent health and youth development programs that are gender-responsive and cater to the reproductive health and life skills of the city's youth constituents. It shall continue to provide programs and services to the Teen Support Group (TSG) and implement the U4U Teen Trail; and
7. Business institutions, regardless of their breadth, that is found out to be selling cigarettes and or liquors to minors, shall be penalized according to existing ordinances which penalize such activities.

- d. Sports Development. - The City Government of General Santos shall establish an integrated youth and sports development program in order to discover and develop fresh would-be athletes from the youth sector who will someday represent the city in national level competitions, or who will become national athletes who will bring honor and glory for the city. It shall implement a comprehensive Sports for All and Sports Academy in the City of General Santos.

Section 32. Training for the Out-of-School Youth. - The City Government shall conceptualize programs to promote the development of the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) to become self-reliant, economically productive, socially responsible citizens able to contribute to the development of the family and community. A technological institute may be established that will aim in training the OSYs of the city in technological and vocational courses. It shall continue to adopt as strategy the *Unlad Kabataan Program* and support the activities and interventions for the Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines, Inc., a legitimate organization for the out-of-school youths and disadvantaged youths in the City of General Santos.

Section 33. Focus on Special Youth. - The City Government of General Santos shall give special focus on special youth by implementing programs and projects that will develop and enhance their skills and empower them to be able to participate in the society productively. The City Government will make a periodic comprehensive survey on special youth which shall serve as basis for the programs and projects intended for their development.

Section 34. Barangay Level Recreational and Cultural Facilities and Program. - A barangay-level program for the revival of indigenous games that reflect the cultural diversity in General Santos City shall be installed. The City Government shall allocate space for recreation and provide recreational facilities appropriate for the youth.

Section 35. Leadership Building and Arts Development. - The City Government of General Santos shall continue to provide programs for the leadership building and arts development and enhancement of the city's youth.

a. The General Santos City Youth Achiever's Award. - It is the desire of the City Government of General Santos to establish a mechanism in which an annual selection of the city's youth achievers and outstanding youth organization will be realized. Through this, the youth will be motivated to excel on their own fields, and, thereby, for others to emulate the success stories of the awardees. Moreover, the City Government will be able to recognize those who brought prestige and honor to our city, not just leaving all their efforts unnoticed.

b. The General Santos City Summer Youth Festival. - It packages summer fun activities and learnings for the youth which includes three (3) major components, namely: Summerlympics, Youth and the Arts and Youth Convergence, which has two (2) components in U4U and Summer Youth Camp.

A major component under the Youth and the Arts is a Summer Music Camp which is envisioned to provide excellent training and quality musical education to enhance the talents and discover hidden potentials of the youth.

c. Comprehensive Approach for Outstanding Athletes, Academic Winners and Excellent Talents. - The City of General Santos recognizes the skills and talents of its young citizens especially in the fields of sports, academics, research and the arts. We have produced not only nationally-acclaimed winners but also international winners. Hence, the City has been called the City of Champions. In order to sustain such momentum, programs to enhance the skills and talents of the youth, as well as mechanism for their participation to competitions, and

incentives for winning are hereby upheld by the City Government. These are the following:

1. Continuing conduct of year-round competitions in order to lay down the foundations for the athletes, intellectual students and talents to excel further;
2. Provision of support in the form of traveling expenses and per diem for their participation to competitions and activities outside of the city;
3. Institutionalization of cash incentives programs, such as *Parangal sa Manlalaro* for winners in sports competitions and Awards for Children and Youth Excellence Program (ACYEP) for winners in competitions in the arts, research, searches and topnotchers in Licensure Examinations; and
4. A Memorandum of Agreement for participation of these winners to the different Festivals of the City would hereby be sanctioned in order to ensure return service for the city's support to these outstanding athletes and talents.

Article V

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE YOUTH

Section 36. Participation of the Youth in Decision-Making Process. - It is important to consult and provide venue for the expression of the youth's view in city policies. Consistent to this, it is necessary that the youth sector is convened once a year, specifically during the youth month, which shall be decided by the General Santos City Local Youth Development Council as to when shall it be held, such that the youth's clamor and needs shall collectively be heard.

Section 37. Youth Participation Rights.-

- a. Every youth has the right to congregate and form associations; as such they have the right to autonomously determine the type of organization, exercise their own initiative and act responsibly on their own so as to achieve their desired goals, provided however, that such associations are not contrary to law or public welfare;
- b. Every youth has the inherent right to take an active part in public life, and to contribute to the common good of his community and fellow citizens;
- c. Every youth has the right to initiate programs, projects, and activities that are not contrary to law or public welfare;
- d. Every youth has the right to be accorded any form of counsel, advisement, guidance, and reprimand in any undertaking fundamental to the needs and well-being of his sector;
- e. Every youth has the right to commit, engage, and be involved in any form of endeavor, necessary in the full development of their sector's interest and society as a whole;
- f. Every youth and youth association or organization has the right to seek and avail of encouragement through technical, educational, and financial support from the appropriate agencies concerned;

- g. Every youth has the right to demand for an environment that is not in conflict with the nature of employment and/or endeavor they have chosen to partake in; and
- h. No youth shall be deprived of his right to participate in activities vital to his and his society's growth and development on the basis of race, gender, creed, ideology, economic status, cultural and organizational affinity, abilities, and/or educational attainment.

Section 38. The General Santos City Local Youth Development Council must be given delegation by the City Government in terms of planning and policy-making especially on issues involving and directly affecting the youth.

Section 39. Legislative Findings. - As the future leaders of country, the youth have demonstrative sincerity and enthusiasm in their effort to help build the country that they have always wanted but such involvement requires not only the sincerity and enthusiasm but a firsthand knowledge of government functions as related to community problems and development. Said first-hand knowledge can be effectively hand by allowing intelligent, responsible, and deserving youth to take the reins of government of the City of General Santos for a certain period and perform at least, the routine functions of the elected and ex-officio government officials and/or plan in actualize programs and project more specifically those affecting and requiring youth involvement.

a. General Santos City Junior Officials Program. - The General Santos City Junior Officials Program shall be institutionalized, implemented, and thereafter maintained by the City Government of General Santos to serve as an avenue for future leaders to be able to gain first-hand knowledge of government functions as related to community problems and development.

b. Qualifications of the General Santos City Junior Officials. - Qualifications of applicants/nominees to the General Santos City Junior Officials (GSCJO) are as follows:

1. Must be a bona fide resident of the City of General Santos for not less than six (6) months prior to the application;
2. High school students, ages 14 to 17 years old;
3. Must belong to the school's honors list or the student supreme government;
4. Must be nominated by the school principal or administrator;
5. Must be of good moral character, as duly certified by the school head;
6. Must not be a previous recipient of the program.

c. Selection Process of the General Santos City Junior Officials.

1. The principal or any authorized representative must indorse ten (10) applicants who shall represent the school;
2. The applicant shall submit his or her application letter, together with the endorsement letter of the principal or authorized representative to the program secretariat;
3. The applicant shall undergo a competitive examination in order to gauge his or her mental fitness;
4. After the examination, there shall be a short-listing of applicants, allowing only the top twenty-five (25) examinees to undergo the oral interview of the selection process;
5. There shall be an oral interview and the top 16 applicants, after summing up the result of the examination and oral interview, shall be successfully chosen for the program; and

6. There shall be a Basic Orientation Seminar for the 16 junior officials, by which they will select among themselves thru secret balloting or viva voce the Junior City Mayor, the Junior Vice-Mayor and the remaining 12 as Junior City Councilors and 2 ex-officio officials, respectively.
- d. Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the General Santos City Junior Officials
 1. The Junior City Mayor
 - a. Observance of the nature and functions of the Executive Department;
 - b. Accompany the City Mayor in his/her public functions, except in circumstances requiring necessary protocol;
 - c. Visit and consult with the heads of the different offices in the City Government;
 - d. Perform some functions of the Local Chief Executive except in the areas which are policy determining or requiring monetary disbursements; and
 - e. Address the Special Session of the City Junior Officials.
 2. The Junior City Vice-Mayor
 - a. Observance of the nature and functions of the Legislative Department;
 - b. Accompany the City Vice-Mayor in his/her public functions, except in circumstances requiring necessary protocol;
 - c. Visit and consult with heads of the different divisions of the Sangguniang Panlungsod;
 - d. Attend Committee Hearings and Public Consultations of the different committees in the Sangguniang Panlungsod; and
 - e. Preside over the Special Session of the City Junior Officials.
 3. The City Junior Councilors and Junior Ex-Officio Officials
 - a. Observance of the nature and functions of the counterpart City Councilor;
 - b. Accompany the counterpart City Councilor in his/her public functions, except in circumstances requiring necessary protocol;
 - c. Attend Committee Hearings and Public Consultations of the particular committees handled by the counterpart City Councilor;
 - d. Assist the staff of the counterpart City Councilor in entertaining clients and visitors; and
 - e. Attend the Special Session of the City Junior Officials and pass resolutions that are of importance to the welfare and development of the youth sector of the city.
 - f. Oath-taking. – No qualifier may become a City Junior Official unless he/she took an Oath of Office which shall be held on the date specified by the Program Secretariat.
 - g. Term of Office. The GSCJO shall serve for one week which shall commence from the first working day until the last working day of the third (3rd) week of November of every year.

Article VI
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE YOUTH

Section 40. Responsibilities of the Youth. - Every youth, regardless of the circumstances of his birth, sex, religion, social status, political antecedents and other factors shall:

- a. Strive to lead an upright and virtuous life regardless of his religious and political affiliation, the teachings of his elders and mentors, and the biddings of a clean conscience;
- b. Love, respect and obey his parents, and cooperate with them in the strengthening of the family;
- c. Extend to his brother and sisters his love, thoughtfulness, and helpfulness, and endeavor with them to keep the family harmonious and united;
- d. Exert his utmost capability to develop his potentialities for service, particularly by undergoing a formal education suited to his abilities, in order that he may become an asset to himself and to society;
- e. Respect not only his elders but also the customs and traditions of the people, the memory of our heroes, the duly constituted authorities, the laws of our country, and the principles and institutions of democracy;
- f. Participate actively in civic affairs and in the promotion of the general welfare, always bearing in mind that it is the youth who will eventually be called upon to discharge the responsibility of leadership in shaping the nation's future; and
- g. Help in the observance of individual human rights, the strengthening of freedom everywhere, the fostering of cooperation among nations in the pursuit of their common aspirations for programs and posterity, and the furtherance of world peace

Article VII
FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 41. Appropriations. - To effectively implement this Ordinance, the Youth Development Fund shall be appropriated annually where certain portions thereof shall be appropriated to cover specific programs for the youth sector.

Section 42. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 43. - Repealing Clause. - All ordinances, local issuances or rules inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 44. Effectivity Clause. - This Ordinance shall immediately take effect upon approval.

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