



Psychological Association of the Philippines

Room 210, 2/F, PSSCenter Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Tel/Fax No.: 453-8257; E-mail Address: pap_1962_08@yahoo.com

PAP Website: pap.org.ph

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

President

Maria Caridad H. Tarroja, Ph.D.
De La Salle University-Manila

Vice President

Ma. Regina M. Hechanova, Ph.D.
Ateneo de Manila University

Executive Secretary

Angela V. Regala, Ph.D.
Assumption College, Makati

Treasurer

Carmencita H. Salonga, Ph.D.
Centro Escolar University, Manila

External Relations Officer

Margaret Helen Udarbe-Alvarez, Ph.D.
Silliman University

Ex-Officio

Allan B.I. Bernardo, Ph.D.
De La Salle University-Manila

BOARD MEMBERS

Ma. Claudette M. Alvarez-Agnes, Ph.D.
University of Santo Tomas

Delia E. Belleza, Ph.D.
University of San Carlos Cebu

Mariflor J. Gatchalian, M.A.
Palawan State University

Jerry J. Jurisprudencia, Ph.D.
Miriam College

Ma. Paz Consolacion A. Manaligod, Ph.D.
Miriam College

Roseann R. Tan-Mansukhani, Ph.D.
De La Salle University-Manila

Aurora Odette C. Mendoza, Ph.D.
University of the Philippines-Diliman

Ronaldo A. Motilla, PhD.
Miriam College

Mira Alexis P. Ofreneo, Ph.D.
Ateneo de Manila University

Jay A. Yacat, M.A.
University of the Philippines-Diliman

Executive Director

Ma. Dinah Espartero- Asiatico

Secretariat

Linda G. Sevilla
Mercy G. Mondejar

7 August 2012

Cebu City Council

4F Legislative Bldg., Cebu City Hall

M.C Briones St.

Barangay Santo Niño

Cebu City

Dear Honorable Members of the Cebu City Council,

The Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) is writing to express its strong support for the proposed *Ordinance Prohibiting Discrimination in Cebu City on the Basis of Disability, Age, Health Status, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Ethnicity, and Religion*.

Founded in 1962, the PAP is a national organization of psychologists in the Philippines committed to the promotion of excellence in the teaching, research, and practice of psychology as a scientific discipline. PAP works to advance psychology as a means of promoting personal and professional growth, humane service, and social transformation.

PAP takes a clear, strong stance against discrimination. The PAP Code of Ethics calls upon all Filipino psychologists to recognize the unique worth and inherent dignity of all human beings; and to respect the diversity among persons and peoples (Principle I, a and b). This means that Filipino psychologists should not discriminate against or demean persons based on age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or socioeconomic status (Ethical Standard III-A and C; V-B.8).

These principles led PAP to adopt a landmark policy *Statement on Non-Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression* in October 2011. As expressed in this policy, not only is there no legitimate basis for discrimination against LGBT Filipinos, but also such discrimination is harmful to their mental health and the public good. Also, one course of action outlined in the statement is for PAP to support the passage of legislation that protects the rights and

promotes the well-being of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

The proposed Cebu City ordinance lays a strong and comprehensive legislative framework as it recognizes the various contexts in which discrimination may operate, for example, in work, education, medical and health services, housing, transportation, and other public services. In addition, the ordinance explicitly outlines a discrimination prevention program via capacity-building and education, support for research on discrimination and stigma, and monitoring of incidents of discrimination.

We urge the passage of this ordinance as it serves Cebu City and promotes the rights and well-being of its good citizens. It is our wish that this laudable piece of legislation serves as a model for similar initiatives in other local government units in the country.

Psychological Association of the Philippines