



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Old Capitol Building, Bacolod City
Tel. No. 707-8075 (Admin) * 435-7698 (Board Member) * 709-0121 (Legislative Division)
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD ON THE 24TH DAY OF JUNE, 2025

PRESENT:

Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer	Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer
Hon. Rommel T. Debulgado	Member - 1st District
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa	Member - 1st District
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.	Member - 2nd District
Hon. Samson C. Mirhan	Member - 2nd District
Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko	Member - 3rd District
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano	Member - 3rd District
Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Andrew Martin Y. Torres	Member - 4 th District
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao	Member - 5th District
Hon. Anthony Dennis J. Occeño	Member - 5 th District
Hon. Valentino Miguel J. Alonso	Member - 6th District
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola	Member - 6th District
Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio	Member - PCL Rep.
Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid	Member - SKF Rep.
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan	Member - ABC Rep.

RESOLUTION NO. 0688

Series of 2025

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE DECISION IN ADMINISTRATIVE CASE NO. 2024-002 OF THE CITY OF HIMAMAYLAN BY AND BETWEEN JEAN LUCERO AS COMPLAINANT VERSUS HONORABLE CHERRIE HOPE BELARGA AS RESPONDENT

Authored by:

HON. SIXTO TEOFILO ROXAS V. GUANZON, JR.
Committee on Laws, Rules, and Ordinances

WHEREAS, the City of Himamaylan, acting as a Quasi-Judicial Body, acted upon the complaint filed by Jean Lucero against Hon. Cherrie Hope Belarga, Punong Barangay of Barangay Su-ay, City of Himamaylan, on the alleged charge of Grave Abuse of Authority and Oppression;

WHEREAS, the complaint arose from an encounter on July 3, 2024, inside the office of Honorable Cherrie Hope Belarga, where the Complainant, Jean Lucero, was summoned by said Punong Barangay, who was also acting as the Complainant herself, alongside her brothers, Kenneth Maravilla and Jude Maravilla, on the alleged illegal construction of a sari-sari store within the jurisdiction of Barangay Su-ay;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Summon was allegedly to pursue an amicable settlement, yet Honorable Cherrie Hope Belarga acted not only as the issuer of the summon and the complainant but also as the Presiding Officer and the one arguing in her own favor;



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WHEREAS, the acts of summoning, filing the complaint, presiding, and arguing on the matter herself, were considered by the Appellant as Manifestations of Bad Faith, and an alleged Abuse of Authority, causing undue stress and Oppression to the Complainant while the settlement was ongoing;

WHEREAS, after both parties presented and argued their sides, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Himamaylan rendered its Decision dated January 8, 2025, which was received by the counsel on January 24, 2025, stating:

"WHEREFORE, finding no clear, gross, deliberate bad faith, oppression, and grave abuse of authority, SP Administrative Case No. 2024-02 is hereby DISMISSED FOR LACK OF MERIT. Respondent Hon. Cherrie Hope M. Belarga is sternly warned to be more circumspect, and that a repetition of the same or similar incident shall be dealt with more severely."

WHEREAS, this decision was seen as a unique example of a resolution issued by a collective body composed of members with varying political beliefs and perspectives;

WHEREAS, the Appellant, Jean Lucero, filed a Notice of Appeal on February 11, 2025, which was forwarded to the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan through the Office of the Vice Mayor and duly received on February 24, 2025;

WHEREAS, after complying with the necessary requirements such as payment of the filing fee, submission of the Certificate of Non-Forum Shopping, and ratification of supporting documents, the matter was docketed as Administrative Case No. SP 2025-003 AC, between Jean Lucero (Appellant) and Honorable Cherrie Hope Belarga (Appellee), before the Quasi-Judicial Body of the 36th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Province of Negros Occidental;

WHEREAS, the appeal hearing, initially postponed due to the May 12 Midterm Elections, as governed by COMELEC Resolution No. 10999, resumed on June 17, 2025;

WHEREAS, further hearings were conducted, including the required appearance of Honorable Cherrie Hope Belarga on June 23, 2025, to present her defense. After thorough discussions and review of both parties' positions, it was found that there was no significant new evidence with sufficient probative value to challenge or overturn the original decision of the Sangguniang Panlungsod;

WHEREAS, a signed Order of Settlement, marked as Exhibit "XXX", was presented as evidence, duly signed by the Appellant, Jean Lucero, with no recorded objection or repudiation, and was thereby accepted as an uncontested, valid document in support of peaceful settlement;

WHEREAS, the Appellant's silence and acquiescence to the Order of Settlement signified her acceptance of its contents and terms, including the voluntary removal of the sari-sari store, without coercion or intimidation;

WHEREAS, the said Order is considered a credible and voluntary agreement, serving as a quantifiable and probative document that reasonably guided the Quasi-Judicial Body in affirming the fairness and justness of the decision rendered;



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NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon Jr., Ponente Writer, duly seconded *en masse* during the regular session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental,

THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolves, to AFFIRM the Decision in Administrative Case No. SP 2024-002 AC, stating:

"WHEREFORE, finding no clear, gross, deliberate bad faith, oppression, and grave abuse of authority, SP Administrative Case No. 2024-02 is hereby DISMISSED FOR LACK OF MERIT. Respondent Hon. Cherrie Hope M. Belarga is sternly warned to be more circumspect, and that a repetition of the same or similar incident shall be dealt with more severely."


RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution shall be furnished to the Local Government Unit of the City of Himamaylan, the Office of the Ombudsman, and the respective counsels of both the Appellant and the Appellee;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the official copies of all records and exhibits related to Administrative Case No. SP 2025-003 AC shall be securely filed in the official repository of the Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for safekeeping and reference.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


HON. JEFFEREY P. FERRER
Vice-Governor/Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ATTY. MAKI ANGEL O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary