

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1555

Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to revise the current charter of the City of Baguio to cater to the present needs of the city and its people.

The charter of Baguio City took effect on September 1, 1909 by virtue of Sections 2540-2574 of the Revised Administrative Code of 1917, as amended. The social, economic and political situation during the early years of Baguio City was so much different from that of the present. Thus, there is a great need to revise the charter to enable it to keep up with the fast changing times and to address the city's present problems, issues and concerns.

It can be recalled that there were already bills revising the charter of Baguio City filed during the Thirteenth (House Bill (HB) No. 3617), Fourteenth (HB 2813), Fifteenth (HB 121) and Sixteenth (HB 4772) Congresses. President Benigno S. Aquino III vetoed HB 121 during the 15th Congress.

The present proposed measure still carries similar objectives, primarily to include the effective implementation of the city government's land use development plan, settlement of the boundary dispute of the city with the adjoining Municipality of Tuba, addressing the problem in the disposition of alienable and disposable public lands with the Baguio town site reservation, and the creation of a more responsive taxation system and revenue generating projects.

Having consulted and dialogued with resource persons and stakeholders, this proposed bill made the necessary changes to address the objections raised by President Aquino when he vetoed a similar bill (HB121) in the past. The present bill makes it clear among others, that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources retains exclusive mandate over control and supervision of alienable and disposable public lands and that the revised charter does not interfere in the

disposition of public properties owned by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

In view of the foregoing considerations and in order to achieve effectiveness and efficiency in local governance and to promote the general welfare of the people of Baguio City, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.



MARK O. GO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MARK O. GO". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the name written in a bold, slightly slanted font.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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1555

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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**AN ACT
REVISING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BAGUIO
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER 61, ACT NO. 2711,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED ADMINISTRATIVE
CODE OF 1917 AS AMENDED**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Revised Baguio City Charter Act.*”

SEC. 2. ***Statement of Purpose.*** – The purposes of Baguio City are as follows:

(a) To make Baguio City a home of dynamic and diverse cultures, to be a center of education, trade and tourism in consonance with the laws of nature and environment to be managed by sincere and steadfast leaders, who are God-fearing, in partnership with responsible citizenry;

(b) To adopt an integrated life cycle approach to environmental protection and management; promote eco-cultural tourism and tourism-related microenterprises; ensure the sustenance of the Baguio City as an educational center of Northern Luzon; develop and implement an investment portfolio and a progressive marketing strategy;

(c) To attain effectiveness and efficiency in local governance to uphold and promote the general welfare and ensure the delivery of basic services; and

(d) To maximize the exercise of the city’s proprietary functions for the general welfare, the provision of basic services and facilities, the management of its economic enterprises and the power to generate and utilize resources, subject to such limitations as provided for under this Act.

In the pursuit of the foregoing purposes, the public officials and employees of Baguio City shall be guided by the following core values: service, integrity, competence, transparency, accountability and resourcefulness.

SEC. 3. *Territorial Boundaries.* –Baguio City comprises the present territorial boundaries without prejudice to the resolution by the appropriate agency or forum of any boundary dispute or case involving questions of territorial jurisdiction as well as agreements or exchange of portions of territories between Baguio City and the adjoining local government units. Any such resolution or agreement shall be appended hereto.

SEC. 4. *Political and Corporate Nature.* – Baguio City is a body politic and corporate entity vested with powers to be exercised by it in conformity with law. As such, it exercises powers as a political subdivision of the national government and as a corporate entity representing the inhabitants of its territory.

As a political subdivision, Baguio City exercises the following governmental powers:

- (a) Create, merge, divide or abolish barangay units in accordance with the criteria set forth by law: *Provided*, That existing barangay units that do not meet the criteria shall be merged in accordance with law;
- (b) Specify, select and transfer sites of barangay offices and facilities;
- (c) Establish government centers for offices, agencies or branches of the national government, local government units or government-owned and -controlled corporations;
- (d) Change the names of barangay units, streets, roads, structures and public places in coordination with the National Historical Institute;
- (e) Uphold and promote the general welfare;
- (f) Provide effective basic social services and facilities;
- (g) Prioritize basic and higher education to ensure its sustenance as an educational center;
- (h) Generate and utilize resources according to existing rules and regulation;
- (i) Exercise the power of eminent domain;
- (j) Reclassify lands subject to national law; and
- (k) Close or open roads, alleys, parks or squares within its jurisdiction.

As a corporate entity, Baguio City exercises the following powers:

- (1) To have continuous succession in its corporate name;
- (2) To sue and be sued;
- (3) To have and use a corporate seal;
- (4) To acquire and convey real and personal property;
- (5) To enter into contracts; and
- (6) To exercise such other powers as are granted to corporations, subject to the limitations provided for under this Act and other laws.

ARTICLE II CITY OFFICIALS

SEC. 5. ***Officials of the City of Baguio.*** – (a) The officials of Baguio City are the city mayor, city vice mayor, *Sangguniang Panlungsod* members, secretary to the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*, city treasurer, city assessor, city engineer, city buildings and architecture officer, city health officer, city civil registrar, city accountant, city social welfare and development officer, city budget officer, city planning and development officer, city administrator, city legal officer, city general services officer, city veterinarian, city human resource management officer, city environment and parks management officer, city tourism officer, city public information officer, and city librarian. In addition, the city mayor may appoint a city agriculturist, a city population officer, a city natural resources officer and a city cooperatives officer.

(b) Through the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*, Baguio City may maintain existing offices not mentioned in paragraph (a) of this section, create such other offices as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of Baguio City in accordance with its master plan of development, and to consolidate the functions of any office with those of another in the interest of rationalization and efficiency.

(c) Unless otherwise provided in this Act, heads of departments and offices shall be appointed by the city mayor with the concurrence of the majority of all the *sangguniang panlungsod* members, subject to civil service law, rules and regulations. The *sangguniang panlungsod* shall act on the appointment within fifteen (15) days from the date of its submission, otherwise the same shall be deemed confirmed.

(d) Elective and appointive city officials shall receive such compensation, allowances, and other emoluments as may be determined by law or ordinance, subject to the budgetary limitations on personal services prescribed under Title Five, Book II of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*.” No increase in compensation of the city mayor, city vice mayor and *sangguniang panlungsod* members shall take effect until after the expiration of the full term of the said local officials approving such increase.

ARTICLE III CITY MAYOR

SEC. 6. ***City Mayor.*** – The city mayor shall be the chief executive of the city government. The city mayor shall exercise such powers and perform such duties and functions as provided for under Section 455 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and other laws and ordinance passed by the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*.

ARTICLE IV CITY VICE MAYOR

SEC. 7. ***City Vice Mayor.*** – The city vice mayor shall be the presiding officer of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* and shall exercise the duties and

functions as provided under Section 456 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and other laws and ordinance passed by the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*.

ARTICLE V SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

SEC. 8. *Sangguniang Panlungsod.* – (a) *Composition* – The *Sangguniang Panlungsod* shall be composed of the city vice mayor as presiding officer, the twelve (12) elected regular *Sangguniang Panlungsod* members, the president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, the president of the Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan, one (1) member representing the women sector, and, as shall be determined by the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the local elections, one (1) member representing the agricultural or industrial workers sector, and one (1) member from any of the following sectors: urban poor, indigenous cultural communities or persons with disabilities.

(b) *Election* – The regular members of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* and the three (3) sectoral representatives shall be elected in the manner provided by law.

SEC. 9. *Powers, Duties and Functions.* – (a) The *Sangguniang Panlungsod*, as the legislative body of Baguio City, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the City and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and in the proper exercise of the governmental and corporate powers of Baguio City as provided for under this Act.

(b) It shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE VI QUALIFICATIONS, DISQUALIFICATION AND SUCCESSION OF ELECTIVE CITY OFFICIALS

SEC. 10. *Qualifications and Disqualification.* – Elective city officials shall possess the same qualifications as those enumerated in Section 39 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and shall be disqualified from running for any elective position in Baguio City upon any of the grounds provided in Section 40 thereof or upon any other ground provided by law.

SEC. 11. *Permanent Vacancy in the Offices of the City Mayor and the City Vice Mayor.* – (a) If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the city mayor, the city vice mayor concerned shall assume as the city mayor. If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the city vice mayor, the highest ranking *sangguniang panlungsod* member or, in case of permanent incapacity, the second highest ranking *sangguniang panlungsod* member shall assume as the city mayor or the city vice mayor, as the case may be. Subsequent vacancies in the said offices shall be filled automatically by the other *sanggunian* members according to their ranking as defined herein.

(b) A tie between or among the highest ranking *sangguniang panlungsod* members shall be resolved by drawing of lots.

(c) The successors as defined herein shall serve only for the unexpired terms of their predecessors.

(d) For purposes of this Act, a permanent vacancy arises when an elective local official fills in a higher vacant office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, dies, is removed from office, voluntarily resigns or is otherwise permanently incapacitated to discharge the functions of the office.

(e) For purposes of succession as provided herein, ranking in the *sanggunian* shall be determined on the basis of the proportion of votes obtained by each winning candidate to the total number of registered voters in the constituency in the immediately preceding local election.

SEC. 12. *Permanent Vacancies in the Sangguniang Panlungsod.* – Permanent vacancies in the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* where automatic succession as provided above does not apply shall be filled by appointments in the following manner:

(a) The President, through the Executive Secretary, shall make the aforesaid appointments.

(b) Only the nominee of the political party under which the *sanggunian* member concerned had been elected and whose elevation to the position next higher in rank created the last vacancy in the *sanggunian* shall be appointed in the manner hereinabove provided. The appointee shall come from the same political party as that of the *sanggunian* member who caused the vacancy and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacant office.

In the appointment herein mentioned, a nomination and a certificate of membership of the appointee from the highest official of the political party concerned are conditions *sine qua non*, and any appointment without such nomination and certification shall be null and void *ab initio* and shall be a ground for administrative action against the official responsible therefor.

(c) In case the permanent vacancy is caused by a *sanggunian* member who does not belong to any political party, the city mayor shall, upon the recommendation of the *sanggunian* concerned, appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

(d) In case of vacancy in the representation of the youth and the barangay in the *sanggunian*, said vacancy shall be filled automatically by the official next-in-rank of the organization concerned.

ARTICLE VII COMPENSATION OF CITY OFFICIALS

SEC. 13. *Compensation.* – Incumbent city officials and employees shall continue to receive their present salaries and benefits in accordance with the salary grades and rates prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989*” and the implementing guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

ARTICLE VIII

APPOINTIVE CITY OFFICIALS AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SEC. 14. *Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod.* – (a) There shall be a secretary to the *sangguniang panlungsod* who shall be a career official with the rank and salary equal to a head of a department or office and who shall be appointed by the city vice mayor with the concurrence of the majority of all *sangguniang panlungsod* members as provided herein.

(b) No person shall be appointed secretary to the *sangguniang panlungsod* unless that person is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in law, commerce or public administration obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The appointee must have acquired experience in the legislative service for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of appointment.

(c) The secretary to the *sanggunian* shall take charge of the office of the *sangguniang panlungsod* and shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 15. *City Treasurer.* – (a) The city treasurer shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Finance from a list of at least three (3) ranking eligible recommendees of the city mayor, subject to civil service law, rules and regulations.

(b) The city treasurer shall be under the administrative supervision of the city mayor, and shall take charge of the city treasury office.

(c) The city treasurer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in commerce, public administration or law obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city treasurer must have acquired experience in treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(d) The city treasurer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 16. *City Assessor.* – (a) The city assessor must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in civil or mechanical engineering, commerce or any other related course obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city assessor must have acquired experience in real property assessment work or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city assessor shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city assessor shall take charge of the city assessor's office.

SEC. 17. ***City Engineer.*** – (a) The city engineer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a licensed civil engineer, and must have acquired experience in the practice of civil engineering profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city engineer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city engineer shall take charge of the city engineering office.

SEC. 18. ***City Buildings and Architecture Officer.*** – (a) The city buildings and architecture officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a licensed architect or civil engineer, and must have acquired experience in the practice of architecture or civil engineering profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city buildings and architecture officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city buildings and architecture officer shall take charge of the city buildings and architecture office.

SEC. 19. ***City Health Officer.*** – (a) The city health officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a licensed medical doctor, and must have acquired experience in the practice of the medical profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city health officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city health officer shall take charge of the city health Services Office.

SEC. 20. ***City Civil Registrar.*** – (a) The city civil registrar must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city civil registrar must have acquired experience in civil registry work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city civil registrar shall be responsible for the civil registration program in Baguio City pursuant to the Civil Registry Law, the Civil Code and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations issued to implement them.

(c) The city civil registrar shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, including extra-judicial functions under Republic Act No. 9048, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(d) The city civil registrar shall take charge of the office of the city civil registry.

SEC. 21. ***City Accountant.*** – (a) The city accountant must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a certified public accountant, and must have acquired experience in treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city accountant shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city accountant shall take charge of both the city accounting office and the city internal audit services office.

SEC. 22. ***City Social Welfare and Development Officer.*** – (a) The city social welfare and development officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a duly licensed social worker, a holder of a college degree preferably in sociology, social work or any other related course obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city social welfare and development officer must have acquired experience in the practice of social work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city social welfare and development officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city social welfare and development officer shall take charge of the Office of Social Welfare and Development.

SEC. 23. ***The City Budget Officer.*** – (a) The city budget officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in accounting, economics, public administration or any related course obtained from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent, and must have acquired experience in government budgeting or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city budget officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city budget officer shall take charge of the city budget office.

SEC. 24. ***City Planning and Development Officer.*** – (a) The city planning and development officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in urban or environmental planning, development studies, economics, public administration or any related course obtained from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent, and must have acquired experience in development planning or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city planning and development officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city planning and development officer shall take charge of the city planning and development coordinating office.

SEC. 25. *City Administrator.* – (a) The city administrator must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in public administration, law or any other related course obtained from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent, and must have acquired experience in management and administrative work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The term of the city administrator is coterminous with that of the appointing authority.

(c) The city administrator shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(d) The city administrator shall take charge of the City Administrator's Office.

SEC. 26. *City Legal Officer.* – (a) The city legal officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and must have practiced law for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The term of the city legal officer shall be coterminous with that of the appointing authority.

(c) The city legal officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(d) The city legal officer, as the chief legal counsel of Baguio City, shall take charge of the city legal services office.

SEC. 27. *City General Services Officer.* – (a) The city general services officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree in public administration, business administration or management obtained from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent, and must have acquired experience in general services, including the management of supply and property for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city general services officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city general services officer shall take charge of the city general services office.

SEC. 28. *City Veterinarian.* – (a) The city veterinarian must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a licensed

doctor of veterinary medicine, and must have practiced veterinary profession for at least three (3) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city veterinarian shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city veterinarian shall take charge of the city veterinary services office.

SEC. 29. *City Human Resource Management Officer.* – (a) The city human resource management officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a human resource management or development practitioner, a holder of a college degree in management or any other related course obtained from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent, and must have acquired experience in the practice of human resource management or development, the administration, execution, coordination and supervision of activities involving personnel operations, and the implementation of civil service laws, rules and regulations for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city human resource management officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance or civil service rules and issuances.

(c) The city human resource management officer shall take charge of the city human resource management office.

SEC. 30. *City Environment and Parks Management Officer.* – (a) The city environment and parks management officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a duly licensed sanitary engineer or a holder of a college degree in forestry, watershed and parks management or any other related course obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city environment and parks management officer must have acquired experience in solid and liquid waste management, general sanitation, forestry, watershed and parks management for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city environment and parks management officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city environment and parks management officer shall take charge of the city environment and parks management office.

SEC. 31. *City Tourism Officer.* – (a) The city tourism officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably with specialized training in tourism development obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city tourism officer must have acquired experience in the implementation of programs on tourism development for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city tourism officer shall assist the city mayor and the local tourism council in developing and implementing tourism-related programs and perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city tourism officer shall take charge of the city tourism office.

SEC. 32. *City Public Information Officer.* – (a) The city public information officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in journalism, mass communications or any related course obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city public information officer must have acquired experience in writing articles and research papers or in writing for print, television or broadcast media for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city public information officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city public information officer shall take charge of the city Public information office.

SEC. 33. *City Librarian.* – (a) The city librarian must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in library science or any related course obtained from a recognized college or university, a licensed librarian and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city librarian must have acquired experience in library administration for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city librarian shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city librarian shall take charge of the city library.

SEC. 34. *City Agriculturist.* – (a) The city agriculturist must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in agriculture or any other related course obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city agriculturist must have practiced the profession in agriculture or acquired the experience for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city agriculturist shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city agriculturist shall take charge of the city agricultural services office.

SEC. 35. *City Population Officer.* – (a) The city population officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably with specialized training in

population development obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city population officer must have acquired experience in the implementation of programs on population development or responsible parenthood for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city population officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city population officer shall take charge of the city population development office.

SEC. 36. *City Natural Resources Officer.* – (a) The city natural resources officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in environment, forestry, agriculture or any other related course obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city natural resources officer must have acquired experience in environmental protection and ecology, and natural resources management, conservation and utilization work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city natural resources officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city natural resources officer shall take charge of the city natural resources office.

SEC. 37. *City Cooperatives Officer.* – (a) The city cooperatives officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of Baguio City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in business administration with special training on cooperatives or any related course obtained from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. The city cooperatives officer must have acquired experience in cooperatives development for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of the appointment.

(b) The city cooperatives officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

(c) The city cooperatives officer shall take charge of the city office for the development of cooperatives.

ARTICLE IX **BOARDS AND COUNCILS**

SEC. 38. *Boards and Councils.* – The local boards and councils created pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, such as the City School Board, City Health Board, City Development Council, and City Peace and Order Council, shall continue to exist and function as provided for by law. Other local bodies such as the City Tourism Council, the City Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Sister-Cities Committee, the Character City Committee,

the City Traffic and Transportation Management Committee, the City Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council, the City Solid Waste Management Board, the City Market Authority, and the Burnham Park Management Authority shall continue to exist and function as provided for by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE X **BAGUIO TOWNSITE RESERVATION AND WATERSHEDS**

SEC. 39. *Alienable and Disposable Lands.* – All alienable and disposable lands within the Baguio Townsite Reservation shall be disposed of and awarded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) through the grant of residential free patent, townsite sales, or other modes of disposition pursuant to Republic Act No. 10023, otherwise known as the Free Patent Law; Commonwealth Act No. 141, otherwise known as the Public Land Act; and such other laws authorizing the disposition of the lands to qualified actual occupants thereon.

The application of Republic Act No. 10023 shall always consider the Zoning Ordinance and the City Land Use Plan. Hence, alienable and disposable public land covered by a townsite sales application filed with the DENR covering areas exceeding two hundred (200) square meters shall not be subdivided for processing under a residential free patent application.

Alienable and disposable lands between roads and titled properties and lands along creeks and rivers with an area of two hundred (200) square meters, more or less, and which are not occupied by houses shall form part of the greenbelt areas of Baguio City, and shall not be awarded to private individuals.

SEC. 40. *City Watersheds.* – The Baguio City Government shall protect, preserve and develop its watersheds and shall impose penal sanctions on anyone who infringes on the said water sources of the city. The forest reservations and water sources within the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) lands shall remain under the jurisdiction of the BCDA.

ARTICLE XI **ANCESTRAL LANDS**

SEC. 41. *Ancestral Lands.* – Pursuant to Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as “*The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997*,” legitimate ancestral lands are considered private properties or lands and are not part of the Baguio Townsite Reservation.

ARTICLE XII **CAMP JOHN HAY RESERVATION**

SEC. 42. *Camp John Hay Reservation.* – The Camp John Hay Reservation covering a total land area of 6,254,105 square meters, which was transferred to the BCDA by virtue of Republic Act No. 7227, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992*” is not part of the Baguio Townsite Reservation.

ARTICLE XIII TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SEC. 43. *Ordinances Prior to the Approval of this Act.* – All ordinances and resolutions of the City of Baguio existing at the time of the approval of this Act shall continue to be in force and effect until the *sangguniang panlungsod* of Baguio City shall declare otherwise.

SEC. 44. *Incumbent Representative and other Elective and Appointive Officials.* – The incumbent Representative of the Lone Legislative District of the City of Baguio and other elective and appointive officials of the City shall continue to exercise their powers and functions during their term or tenure, pursuant to existing laws.

SEC. 45. *Representative District.* – Until otherwise provided by law, the City of Baguio shall continue to exist as a lone legislative district.

SEC. 46. *Identity of the City.* – The City shall retain its identity as a highly-urbanized city, and shall remain part of the Cordillera Administrative Region. Baguio City may form part of any growth corridor that will be established or of any aggrupation of local government units that shall undertake to consolidate or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them such as those being undertaken by Baguio City, and the municipalities of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay, commonly known as the BLISTT concept.

ARTICLE XIV FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 47. *Applicability of Laws.* – The provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and such other laws applicable to highly-urbanized cities shall govern Baguio City insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 48. *Repealing Clause.* – The provisions of the Charter of the City of Baguio as contained in Act No. 2711, otherwise known as the “*Revised Administrative Code of 1917*,” as amended, is hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 49. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 50. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,