

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY: APPLIED BUSINESS AND EDUCATION RESEARCH

2025, Vol. 6, No. 12, 6059 – 6078

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11594/ijmaber.06.12.17>

Research Article

Implementation of City Ordinance in a Highly Urbanized City: Inputs to Public Safety and Security

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Article history:

Submission 29 September 2025

Revised 31 November 2025

Accepted 23 December 2025

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ABSTRACT

This study assessed the implementation of city ordinances in a highly urbanized city in the Philippines and their implications for public safety and security. A quantitative descriptive research design was employed, with data collected from 149 respondents, comprising police officers, barangay officials, and community residents, using a self-administered survey questionnaire. The findings revealed a strong consensus among the three groups, who rated the implementation of community service, issuance of violation receipts, filing of cases, and reporting procedures as "Highly Implemented." Common violations, such as curfew breaches, public smoking, and drinking in public, were identified as persistent challenges. ANOVA results confirmed no significant differences in the assessments of the three groups, indicating a unified perception of ordinance enforcement's effectiveness. This study highlights the importance of collaborative efforts among law enforcement, local officials, and the community in maintaining public order. Recommendations include developing an integrated digital management system to strengthen documentation, reporting, and public engagement, as well as fostering continuous collaboration with local communities and organizations to enhance trust and actively participate in upholding public safety. The findings contribute to the understanding of effective urban governance strategies and align with the principles of the "Safe City" framework, emphasizing the significance of data-driven, technology-enabled approaches in ensuring sustained public safety and security in complex urban environments.

Keywords: *City ordinance implementation, Public safety and security, Ordinance violations, Law enforcement, Community trust, Resource constraint, Monitoring and evaluation*

How to cite:

Gile, W. L., Plata, N. P., Anselmo, C. T., & Mosqueda, R. D. (2025). Implementation of City Ordinance in a Highly Urbanized City: Inputs to Public Safety and Security. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research*. 6(12), 6059 – 6078. doi: 10.11594/ijmaber.06.12.17

Introduction

Public safety and order are crucial for community well-being and stability. Public safety encompasses measures to protect individuals from crime, disasters, and other potential threats, whereas public order focuses on maintaining peace and preventing social disorder. The importance of ensuring public safety in urban areas is significant, as these settings often have higher population densities and more complex social dynamics that can increase the risk of crime and disorder (Mansourihanis et al., 2024). Urban areas face distinct challenges in terms of public safety. The spatial dynamics and socioeconomic disparities common in cities can create crime hotspots, complicating efforts to maintain public order (Mansourihanis et al., 2024). Law enforcement in urban settings must navigate these complexities while addressing a range of issues, from violent to property crimes, each requiring different strategies (Shukla et al., 2019). A significant challenge for law enforcement is balancing crime control and trust-building within communities. Public trust is essential for effective policing because it encourages community cooperation and reduces friction between law enforcement and the public (Mukherjee and Mathew, 2024). However, achieving and maintaining trust can be particularly challenging when there is a history of negative interactions or perceptions of misconduct (Mukherjee and Mathew, 2024). Further complicating these challenges are issues such as inadequate resources, evolving crime patterns, and the need for transparent communication, which can hinder law enforcement's ability to maintain public order effectively (Jennings and Perez, 2020). Innovative approaches, such as the use of body-worn cameras, have been explored to address some of these issues and enhance transparency (Williams 2021). Ensuring public safety in urban areas is vital; however, it involves navigating complex challenges, including socioeconomic factors, diverse crimes, and the need for community trust. Policymakers and law enforcement agencies should collaborate to develop strategies that address these multifaceted issues and create safer and more equitable communities. The "Safe City" concept is a comprehensive initiative that seeks to enhance urban safety using advanced information

and communication technologies (ICTs) to integrate security measures into urban infrastructure. A Safe City typically includes key components such as surveillance systems, communication networks, and data analytics platforms that collectively aim to bolster the safety and security of urban environments (Ristvej et al., 2020). The primary goals of implementing Safe City technologies are to reduce crime rates, improve emergency response times, and create secure spaces that enhance residents' quality of life while supporting economic activities (Tutak and Brodny, 2023). Historically, the Safe City concept emerged alongside the development of smart city initiatives, initially taking root in developed nations and subsequently being adapted by emerging economies to fit local contexts and infrastructure (Lim et al., 2020). Through collaboration between public entities and the private sector, these initiatives aim to form comprehensive safety nets that not only enhance law enforcement efficiency but also support community engagement in crime prevention (Ristvej et al., 2020).

Statement of the Problem

This study assessed the respondents' perception of implementing ordinances in a highly urbanized city for public safety and security. Based on the findings from the implementation of ordinances, this study proposes an action plan to improve ordinance enforcement practices. Specifically, this study focused on the following questions:

- What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - a. Age;
 - b. Sex;
 - c. Civil status; and
 - d. What is the highest educational attainment?
- What are the perceived common violations of city ordinances in Quezon City in terms of:
 - a. Curfew hour;
 - b. Smoking in public places.
 - c. Drinking in public places
 - d. Being half-naked in public
 - e. Urinating in public places; and
 - f. Littering?

- How do the respondents assess the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city in terms of:
 - a. Community service;
 - b. Issuance of violation receipts
 - c. Filing of charges; and
 - d. Reporting?
- Is there a significant difference in the assessment of the three groups of respondents (police officers, barangay officials, and community residents) regarding the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city?
- Based on the findings of the study, what programs may be proposed to enhance and strengthen the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city as inputs to public safety and security?

Conceptualizing public safety and order

Public safety and order are multifaceted constructs shaped by legal frameworks, sociological insights, and technological advancements. Legally, public order is supported by regulations aimed at safeguarding life, health, and property, such as public order regulations enacted by local governments in Poland to decentralize public security efforts (Kostrubiec 2021). Sociologically, maintaining public order involves understanding community dynamics and collaboration between authorities and citizens, as highlighted by the interplay between police unions and state regulations in India, which can redefine civic rights and governance (Jauregui 2018). The relationship between public safety and national security is evident in scenarios such as Ukraine, where national threats require effective public safety measures to ensure overall security (Sitsinska et al., 2021). Technological advancements play a crucial role in modern public safety strategies, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, where digital technologies facilitated public health actions (Storeng and Puyvallée 2021). The Metaverse further exemplifies the need for international legal frameworks to address the challenges of virtual spaces regarding public safety (Qin et al., 2025). Collectively, these elements underscore the complexity of public safety and order, necessitating integrated

approaches that adapt to societal and technological developments.

"Safe City" as a public safety strategy

The "Safe City" strategy employs advanced technological components, such as video surveillance systems, data analytics, and cloud technology, to enhance public safety. Video surveillance in smart cities involves the strategic placement of cameras integrated with technologies such as deep learning and blockchain to ensure continuous real-time monitoring and data integrity (Myagmar-Ochir and Kim, 2023). These systems are designed to work seamlessly with existing law enforcement systems by providing crucial data that aid real-time decision-making and crime prevention. Integration extends to the utilization of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other digital tools to map crime patterns and predict potential threats, thereby improving emergency response efficiency (Shenoy et al., 2021). However, the widespread deployment of surveillance technologies in public spaces raises significant concerns. On the one hand, these technologies offer benefits such as deterring crime, improving traffic management, and enabling efficient resource allocation during emergencies (Babele, 2020). However, they invite criticism for the potential invasion of privacy and erosion of civil liberties, with increased surveillance sometimes leading to heightened public mistrust, particularly among marginalized communities (Hendrix et al. 2018). Critics argue that the use of live facial recognition and other intrusive technologies should be carefully regulated to balance safety and individual privacy (Gikay, 2023). Although "Safe City" initiatives are instrumental in bolstering urban safety through technology, they necessitate careful consideration of ethical implications and a transparent regulatory framework to address public concerns over surveillance practices (Dempsey et al., 2023 ; Khan et al., 2020).

Legal and ethical considerations

The implementation of Safe Cities, which leverage advanced technologies to improve urban living, involves several legal and ethical considerations. Privacy concerns and data protection are paramount, as these projects often

collect and utilize large amounts of personal data, thereby increasing the risk of privacy violations. Thus, safeguarding this information through robust data protection frameworks is essential to prevent misuse and enhance user trust (Clever et al., 2018). Additionally, the challenge of balancing security needs with civil liberties must be addressed to avoid infringing on individual rights, as technologies such as facial recognition can intrude on personal freedoms if they are not properly controlled (Wang et al., 2024). Establishing regulatory frameworks is crucial for overseeing the deployment of these technologies, focusing on ethical governance and the protection of civil liberties while enabling technological advancement (Ehwi et al. 2022). These frameworks should ensure that smart city initiatives comply with legal requirements, uphold ethical principles, and prioritize citizens' rights and privacy (Biondi et al., 2023).

Methods

Research Design

This study employed a quantitative descriptive research design to examine the implementation of city ordinances and their implications for public safety and security. The descriptive approach was deemed appropriate because it allowed the researcher to systematically collect, summarize, and interpret numerical data on ordinance violations and enforcement practices in selected barangays of Quezon City. The design also enabled the identification of significant differences in the perceptions of key stakeholder groups.

Respondents and Sampling

The respondents were drawn from three groups: (a) police officers assigned to the Quezon City Police District, (b) barangay officials from Bagong Silangan, Batasan Hills, and Payatas, and (c) community residents from the same localities. A total of 149 respondents participated, comprising 49 police officers (32%), 50 barangay officials (34%), and 50 community residents (34%). Stratified random sampling was used to ensure representation from all the groups.

Research Instrument

The primary instrument was a self-administered survey questionnaire developed by the researcher, anchored to the study's conceptual framework. The questionnaire was structured into four sections: (1) demographic profile, (2) common city ordinance violations (e.g., curfew, smoking, drinking in public places, public urination, littering, and being half-naked in public), (3) assessment of ordinance implementation (community service, issuance of violation receipts, filing of charges, and reporting), and (4) open-ended items for recommendations. Items were rated on a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

Validity and Reliability

To ensure content validity, the questionnaire was reviewed by experts in criminology, law enforcement, and local governance fields. A pilot test was conducted with 30 non-sample respondents from another barangay in Quezon City. Reliability analysis using Cronbach's alpha yielded coefficients above the acceptable threshold of 0.70, indicating the internal consistency of the instrument.

Data Gathering Procedure

Formal approval was obtained from the local authorities prior to data collection. With the assistance of barangay officials and police precincts, questionnaires were distributed and retrieved within four weeks (June–July 2022). Respondents were assured of their confidentiality and anonymity. The researcher collected the completed questionnaires for encoding and analysis.

Data Analysis

The data were processed using descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. Frequency counts, percentages, weighted means, and standard deviations were used to describe the respondents' profiles and their perceptions of ordinance violations and implementation. To determine significant differences among the three groups of respondents, t-tests and one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were

employed. Where significant differences were found, post hoc tests (Scheffé or Tukey HSD) were performed. Qualitative responses from

open-ended items were analyzed through thematic coding to provide supplementary.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Distribution of the Group of Respondent

Group of Respondents	Sample Respondents	Percentage
PNP	49	32%
Community	50	34%
Barangay officials	50	34%
Total	149	100%

In implementing city ordinances within highly urbanized areas, ensuring public safety and security necessitates a coordinated effort among various stakeholders. A survey of respondents underscores this collaboration, with the distribution comprising 49 members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), accounting for 32%, and both community members and Barangay Officials constituting 50 respondents each, representing 34%. This distribution reflects a balanced and inclusive approach to public safety measures, acknowledging the critical roles of each group. The involvement of the PNP is essential for the enforcement and

oversight of legal measures, while the engagement of community members facilitates grassroots understanding and compliance with these ordinances. Barangay Officials serve as a bridge between government policies and local implementation, ensuring that community concerns are addressed and that ordinances are effectively communicated and adhered to at the local level. This collective effort enhances the effectiveness of public safety initiatives, ensuring that they are tailored to the needs and realities of the urban populace (Bartolay, 2018; Billingham and Kimelberg, 2018).

Table 2 illustrates the frequency distribution of respondents and their percentages according to age

AGE	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS						TOTAL	%
	PNP		COMMUNITY		BARANGAY OFFICIAL			
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>		
18-20 years old	0	0	15	30	0	0	15	10
21-30 years old	23	47	16	32	13	26	52	35
31-40 years old	21	43	12	24	25	50	58	39
41-50 years old	4	8	7	14	12	24	23	15
51 years old and above	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	49	100	50	100	50	100	149	100

The distribution of respondents according to age in the implementation of a city ordinance survey in a highly urbanized area reveals insightful age dynamics across different sectors involved in public safety and security. The age

group 21-30 years comprises the largest segment of respondents, with 47% of PNP, 32% of community members, and 26% of Barangay Officials, totaling 35% overall. This suggests youthful involvement, particularly among law

enforcement, reflecting an invigorated workforce that is potentially more adaptive to innovative safety measures. The 31-40 years age bracket closely follows, accounting for 39% overall, dominated by Barangay Officials at 50%. This age group likely brings a blend of experience and energy that is crucial for community engagement and local governance. The prevalence of younger and middle-aged respondents highlights the importance of

targeting public safety initiatives that resonate with these age groups when crafting policies. The minimal representation of those aged 51 and older (1%) among respondents reinforces the need to encourage broader age diversity to leverage the varied perspectives necessary for comprehensive and effective urban safety strategies (Brankston et al., 2021; Rowe et al., 2023).

Table 3 illustrates the frequency distribution of the number of respondents and their percentage according to sex.

Sex	Category Of Respondents						Total	%
	PNP		Community		Barangay Official			
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%		
Male	11	22	17	34	14	28	42	28
Female	38	78	33	66	36	72	107	72
Total	49	100	50	100	50	100	149	100

Analyzing gender distribution within the context of public safety and security in urban settings is crucial for understanding the roles and participation of different genders. The frequency distribution in Table 3 from the study "Implementation of City Ordinance in a Highly Urbanized City" highlights that female respondents dominate, comprising 72% of the total sample of Philippine National Police (PNP), community, and barangay officials. This scenario aligns with the findings of the existing literature that emphasizes the increasing participation of women in local governance, which might be a result of initiatives such as gender-responsive budgeting and the push for more gender-equitable environments in cities (Funk

and Molina, 2021; Galizzi et al., 2018). Studies have noted that the presence of women in governmental roles can lead to reduced gender inequities and potentially influence safety and security policies in urban settings (Funk and Molina, 2021). Furthermore, the gender-by-gender distribution of public participation in governance can challenge existing gender norms, potentially paving the way for more inclusive urban planning (Bain & Podmore, 2023). These dynamics are particularly essential in framing security and governance policies within urban spaces, effectively addressing both gender representation and safety concerns (Ortega and Béhague, 2022).

Table 4 Distribution of Respondents According to Civil Status

Civil Status	Category of Respondents						Total	%
	PNP		Community		Barangay Official			
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>		
Single	23	47	26	52	5	10	54	36
Married	26	53	24	48	45	90	95	64
Separated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Widowed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	49	100	50	100	50	100	149	100

The distribution of respondents according to civil status in the context of public safety and urban governance highlights interesting dynamics that can inform policies and practices. The data presented show a predominance of married respondents (64%), especially among barangay officials, starkly contrasting with their single counterparts at 36% of the total sample. This finding can be contextualized within the broader urban governance literature, where married individuals often play significant roles in community structures, contributing to stability and cohesive governance environments. Such dynamics can enhance the

capacity for community engagement and public participation (Worrall and Kjaerulf, 2018). Studies on urban governance emphasize the importance of public participation and collaboration between law enforcement and civil entities to foster effective governance and urban safety measures (Liu et al., 2023; Li et al., 2022). Hence, the civil status distribution suggests potentially advantageous structures for implementing policies geared toward urban safety and security, underlining the critical role of relational dynamics and community integration as pivotal elements of urban governance (Ma et al., 2019).

Table 5 Distribution of Respondents According to Highest Educational Attainment

Highest Educational Attainment	Category Of Respondents						Total	%
	PNP		Community		Barangay Official			
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%		
Elementary Graduate	0	0	11	22	0	0	11	7
High school Graduate	0	0	22	44	6	12	28	19
College Undergraduate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
College Graduate	49	100	16	32	44	88	109	73
With Post Graduate Units	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1
Master's Degree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doctoral's Degree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	100	50	100	50	100	149	100

The distribution of respondents by educational attainment in urban governance, as shown in Table 5, offers significant insights into the role and impact of education in the public safety sector. This distribution reveals a strong presence of college graduates, who constitute 73% of the total respondents, with no representation of college undergraduates or individuals with advanced degrees within certain key groups, such as PNP and barangay officials. This trend suggests that higher educational attainment is a valuable asset in these roles, possibly because of the complex nature of urban governance, which requires individuals to engage in informed decision-making and policy implementation. The importance of education

in fostering civic engagement and effective governance has been well documented. Higher education often correlates with increased political and civic participation, as seen in European contexts, where educational institutions act as facilitators of democratic engagement among young people (Sloam et al., 2021). Educational attainment can also enable individuals to navigate and influence governance structures, thereby promoting transparency, accountability, and community involvement (Katsonis, 2019). Therefore, the emphasis on educational qualifications among respondents potentially reflects a strategic approach to enhancing governance and policy implementation in urban safety initiatives.

Table 6 presents the frequency distribution of the number of respondents and its percentage according to the length of services

Length of Service	Category of Respondents						Total	%
	PNP		Community		Barangay Official			
	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Less Than 1 Year	0	0	2	4	1	2	3	2
More Than 1 Year But Less Than 2 Years	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1
2 To 3 Years	1	2	33	66	1	2	35	24
4 To 5 Years	9	18	14	28	32	64	55	37
More Than 5 Years	39	80	1	2	14	28	54	36
Total	9	100	50	100	50	100	149	100

The frequency distribution of respondents based on their length of service, as shown in Table 6, provides insights into the composition of personnel in public safety roles in urban governance. The data revealed that a significant proportion (37%) of respondents had served between four and five years, with a noteworthy majority (36%) having more than five years of experience, especially within the Philippine National Police (PNP) group. This indicates a stable workforce with substantial institutional knowledge, which is crucial for maintaining effective governance and public safety. Studies have shown that longer service duration often equates to improved proficiency and a better understanding of the complexities within their roles, thereby enhancing performance and decision-making capabilities (Jones et al., 2024). Public safety personnel, particularly those with

extensive experience can provide valuable insights into managing organizational stress and trauma, thereby contributing to sustainable and effective public safety services (Fallon et al., 2023). The presence of experienced personnel aids in developing resilience and coping strategies for both traumatic incidents and high-pressure situations, offering critical peer support to newer staff (Miller and Unruh, 2019).

Moreover, peer support systems and mentoring from experienced members play a significant role in fostering a supportive work environment, potentially reducing turnover and improving service delivery (Fallon et al., 2023). Therefore, organizations can leverage the extensive service experience of their personnel to effectively navigate challenges in urban public safety.

Table 7 Weighted Mean Average on the Respondent's Assessment on the common city ordinances that were violated

Indicators	Category Of Respondents						Grand Mean	
	PNP		Community		Barangay Official			
	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI
Curfew Hour	3.88	AV	3.92	AV	4.00	AV	3.93	AV
Smoking in Public Places	3.84	AV	3.82	AV	3.98	AV	3.88	AV
Drinking in Public Places	3.71	AV	3.72	AV	3.88	AV	3.77	AV
Half-Naked	3.57	AV	3.4	AV	3.80	AV	3.59	AV
Urinating in Public Places	3.45	AV	3.38	AV	3.30	AV	3.38	AV
Littering	3.39	AV	3.32	AV	3.34	AV	3.35	AV
Total	3.66	AV	3.63	AV	3.69	AV	3.65	AV

Table 7 highlights the shared understanding among the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials, and community residents that curfew violations and public vice offenses are among the most common ordinance violations in a highly urbanized city. Curfew violations topped the list with the highest grand mean of 3.93, followed by smoking at 3.88 and drinking in public areas at 3.77, all seen as "Always Violated." The high rate of curfew violations reflects urban dynamics where youth mobility, nightlife, and diverse populations lead to non-compliance. This aligns with urban criminology findings showing densely populated cities face higher ordinance violations due to active nighttime economies and weak social controls (Mansourihanis et al., 2024). The agreement among stakeholders indicates curfew breaches are widely visible, making them key for monitoring and police responses. The high weighted means for smoking and drinking reflect behavioral norms where public spaces

function as social extensions. Studies show these violations persist despite restrictions, especially in communities with inconsistent enforcement (Kim et al., 2023; Grund et al., 2019). The consensus across respondent groups supports findings that public perceptions align with community experiences (Stumpf, Canepa, & Yee, 2018). This agreement indicates enforcement bodies and residents share similar observations, which improves enforcement effectiveness (Indarti, 2020; Worrall & Kjaerulf, 2018). Lower weighted means for urinating (3.38) and littering (3.35) suggest these are less pervasive than curfew and vice-related violations (Hollar et al., 2022). The findings highlight the need for targeted interventions, including public awareness, consistent enforcement, and authority-resident collaboration, aligning with Safe City approaches (Ristvej et al., 2020; Tutak & Brodny, 2023).

Table 8 Weighted Mean Average on the Respondent's Assessment on the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized in terms of Community Service

INDICATORS	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS								GRAND MEAN
	PNP		COMMUNITY		BARANGAY OFFICIAL				
	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	
1.Ensure the presence of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) personnel enforcing the ordinances.	3.74	HI	3.8	HI	3.57	HI	3.7	HI	
2.Parents/Guardians of rescued minor during implementation of city ordinances shall render community service within Barangay area of responsibility.	3.86	HI	3.79	HI	3.86	HI	3.84	HI	
3.Police officer always ensures the safety of rescued minor during the implementation of city ordinances.	3.71	HI	3.8	HI	3.71	HI	3.74	HI	
4.Police Officer are provided with proper training and programme to further enhance their knowledge and skills in handling arrested violators, especially in cases of minors.	4	HI	3.8	HI	4	HI	3.93	HI	
5.Police Officer use a marked vehicle (PNP Patrol Cars, Motorcycle with PNP marking, Barangay Patrol cars) when conducting police operation in the implementation of city ordinances.	3.67	HI	3.7	HI	3.71	HI	3.69	HI	
6.Police Officer applies the ethical standard of a public officials in dealing with the public such as not being arrogant, avoid accepting of gifts and money from the public.	3.69	HI	3.9	HI	3.71	HI	3.77	HI	
7.Police officers makes the parents and guardians of rescued minors informed about the consequences, that they may be charge if the act was repeatedly committed and there are fines and accurate penalties that may imposed.	3.75	HI	4	HI	3.86	HI	3.87	HI	
8.Arrested violators were informed of their rights and explained to them properly.	3.77	HI	3.9	HI	3.57	HI	3.75	HI	
9.Police officer orient appropriately the public about the policy/city ordinances through dialogue, a house to house visitations, Barangay meetings and during the conduct of police patrolling.	3.75	HI	3.9	HI	3.57	HI	3.74	HI	
10. Avoid displaying or using firearm, weapon, handcuffs or other instruments of force or restraint in cases of Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).	3.7	HI	4	HI	3.86	HI	3.85	HI	
TOTAL	3.76	HI	3.86	HI	3.74	HI	3.79	HI	

Table 8 provides a clear picture of how community service is used to enforce city ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city. With a grand mean of 3.79, it's evident that the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay

officials, and community residents all agree that community service is "Highly Implemented." This makes it a go-to method for addressing ordinance violations, serving as both a corrective and rehabilitative measure. High

ratings suggest that barangays effectively use community service as an alternative to traditional sanctions. This approach not only addresses minor violations but also encourages offenders to assume social responsibilities. This finding aligns with the existing literature, which has long recognized community service as a powerful non-custodial intervention that aids rehabilitation and reintegration while benefiting the community (Bryant & Vuchinich, 1992; McGarrell et al., 1997; Tate, 1993). Moreover, the strong implementation of community service supports the principles of participatory local governance highlighted by Indarti (2020), indicating that accountability and community involvement boost the legitimacy and success of law enforcement. This also aligns with studies showing that the success of local ordinances hinges on consistent enforcement and active

community stakeholder involvement (Peck et al., 2020; Kim et al., 2023). In the broader context of "Safe City" governance, the effective use of community service shows how barangays are integrating restorative practices into public safety strategies. This is consistent with Safe City frameworks that emphasize community participation, preventive approaches, and shared responsibility for maintaining urban order (Ristvej et al., 2020; Tutak & Brodny, 2023). Overall, the results indicate that community service is not only operationally successful but also socially meaningful. It serves as a practical tool for fostering civic discipline, reducing recidivism, and strengthening collaboration among the police, barangay officials, and the public to promote safety and order in the community.

Table 9 Weighted Mean Average on the Respondent's Assessment on the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city in terms of Issuance Official Violation Receipt

INDICATORS	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS						GRAND MEAN	
	PNP		COMMUNITY		BARANGAY OFFICIAL			
	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI		
1.PNP ensures police officer enforcing the ordinances are knowledgeable enough about the various ordinances needed to be enforced.	3.71	HI	3.4	HI	3.71	HI	3.61	HI
2.Police officers apprehending a violator properly introduce himself or herself and inform the ordinance that was violated.	3.59	HI	3.55	HI	3.43	HI	3.52	HI
3.Police officer informs the violator of his/her right to avail of the No Contest Provision (<i>willing to pay fine voluntarily imposed upon him prior to the filing of formal complaint</i>).	3.82	HI	3.8	HI	3.71	HI	3.78	HI
4.Police officer issues an OVR indicates properly the name, address, and other pertinent data of the person apprehended, as may be requested in the OVR, including the violation.	3.55	HI	3.7	HI	3.71	HI	3.65	HI
5.Police officer coordinates with the Barangays such as the head of their BPSO known as Barangay Executive Officer (Ex.O) before operation for proper dispatched and to avoid miss coordination.	3.39	HI	3.6	HI	3.71	HI	3.57	HI
6.Police officer avoid violence or unnecessary force in making an apprehension.	3.43	HI	3.8	HI	3.71	HI	3.65	HI
7.Police officer refrains from using vulgar or profane languages that may offend the arrested violators, and to avoid public shaming that can give negative feedback from the community.	3.49	HI	3.9	HI	3.86	HI	3.75	HI
8.Police officer applies maximum tolerance to conduct an operation successfully, without any untoward incidents that may occur.	3.44	HI	3.8	HI	3.57	HI	3.6	HI
9.Police officer writes clearly and legibly on the OVR the necessary data, especially if the arrested violators is a member of Senior Citizen, Out of School youth, and/ illiterate individual.	3.67	HI	3.8	HI	3.86	HI	3.78	HI
10.Police officer undergoes seminars and deputation which is conducted by the Local Government Unit, just to ensure the validity of the issued OVR and the legality of the operation.	3.67	HI	3.9	HI	3.86	HI	3.81	HI
TOTAL	3.58	HI	3.73	HI	3.71	HI	3.67	HI

Table 9 shows that the use of Official Violation Receipts (OVRs) for enforcing ordinances is rated as "Highly Implemented," with an average score of 3.67 among the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials, and community residents. This suggests that barangays consistently use OVRs to formally document and address ordinance violations, which helps

ensure transparency and accountability in enforcement. A high rating indicates that issuing OVRs is a regular practice, well-monitored, and seen as an effective way to encourage orderly behavior among residents. This aligns with research highlighting the importance of systematic documentation and citation processes in effective law enforcement, as they help reduce

inconsistencies and structure responses to minor legal infractions (Lonero, 2019; McMahon, 2019). Studies have also shown that clear and standardized procedures, such as issuing violation receipts, enhance enforcement credibility and minimize opportunities for arbitrary decision-making, thereby strengthening public trust (Indarti, 2020). Moreover, the consistent use of OVRs illustrates how local enforcement mechanisms can support broader urban governance goals by ensuring legal compliance and contributing to public safety (Haddad, 2020; Kim et al., 2023). The literature on policy implementation supports the idea that structured monitoring and clear documentation improve the efficiency and fairness of ordinance

enforcement, as they provide tangible records that guide subsequent actions, such as filing charges or assigning community service (Culberson, 2018; Peck et al. 2020). In line with the "Safe City" principles, the effective issuance of OVRs also reflects a governance environment where coordination, transparency, and accountability are prioritized to maintain safety and order (Ristvej et al., 2020). Overall, the results indicate that OVR issuance is a well-established practice in the barangays studied, serving as a crucial administrative tool that enhances enforcement consistency, supports due process, and bolsters the legitimacy of local ordinance implementation in the Philippines.

Table 10 Weighted Mean Average on the Respondent's Assessment on the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city in terms of Filing of Cases

INDICATORS	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS						GRAND MEAN	
	PNP		COMMUNITY		BARANGAY OFFICIAL			
	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI
1. Police Officer wear proper and prescribed uniform in adhering to Letter of Instruction "LOI" Tamang Bihis, when filing of cases.	3.71	HI	3.7	HI	3.71	HI	3.71	HI
2. Police Officer is on time in filing a case to avoid declining of filed affidavit.	3.59	HI	3.6	HI	3.43	HI	3.54	HI
3. Police officer ensure that all vital information's of violations are collected before filing.	3.82	HI	3.8	HI	3.71	HI	3.78	HI
4. Police officers explains to violators the nature of their violations, to face consequences and effect of the charges.	3.55	HI	3.6	HI	3.71	HI	3.62	HI
5. The Submitted complaint affidavits, sworn statements and other supporting documents of complainant and witness are properly arranged, labelled, paged and bound.	3.39	HI	3.5	HI	3.71	HI	3.53	HI
6. The financial expenses that was made, in filing a case such as medical examination and photocopies of documents are properly liquidated and audited.	3.43	HI	3.75	HI	3.71	HI	3.63	HI
7. Police officer avoids any unnecessary expenditures of funds especially not related in filling a case.	3.49	HI	3.8	HI	3.86	HI	3.72	HI
8. The station commander is properly informed before any police operations are conducted for guidance, instruction and proper disposition.	3.44	HI	3.7	HI	3.57	HI	3.57	HI
9. Police officer handling the case have a constant contact or communication with the courts to ensure a two way understanding of aims and objectives.	3.67	HI	3.6	HI	3.86	HI	3.71	HI
10. Police officers read and double check the details of the record to ensure the veracity and truthfulness of the report	3.67	HI	3.9	HI	3.86	HI	3.81	HI
TOTAL	3.58	HI	3.7	HI	3.71	HI	3.66	HI

Table 10 indicates that ordinance enforcement, particularly in terms of filing cases, is regarded as “Highly Implemented” by all respondent groups, with a grand mean of 3.66. This suggests a strong consensus among the police, barangay officials, and community residents that the practice of filing cases for ordinance violations is consistently and properly executed in the barangays of highly urbanized cities. High ratings imply that when violations necessitate formal legal action, barangays appropriately initiate case-filing procedures, demonstrating adherence to due process and reinforcing the importance of ordinance enforcement. These findings are consistent with the literature, which emphasizes that filing cases is a critical component of local law enforcement, as it formalizes accountability and ensures that violations are addressed through legal channels (Culberson, 2018; Lee & Shin, 2020). Research further highlights that effective case-filing mechanisms enhance the integrity of the justice process, reduce impunity, and strengthen the overall enforcement system, es-

pecially when supported by accurate documentation, such as violation receipts (Indarti, 2020). Additionally, empirical studies show that consistent legal action contributes to deterrence, improves compliance with local regulations, and supports broader public-safety goals (Criado et al., 2019; Fry et al., 2018). In urban contexts, where ordinance violations are more frequent and diverse, structured enforcement—including the ability and willingness to file cases when necessary—is vital to maintain public order (Shenoy et al., 2021). From a governance perspective, the “Safe City” framework emphasizes the importance of integrating administrative and legal processes to promote accountability and enhance public trust in law enforcement systems (Ristvej et al., 2020). Overall, the high implementation rating in Table 10 suggests that barangays are not only enforcing ordinances at the community level but are also capable of elevating violations to formal legal action when required, thereby reinforcing the rule of law and contributing to a more disciplined and orderly urban environment.

Table 11 Weighted Mean Average on the Respondent's Assessment on the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city as inputs to public security and safety in terms of Reporting

INDICATORS	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS						GRAND MEAN	
	PNP		COMMUNITY		BARANGAY OFFICIAL			
	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI		
1. Police Officer prohibit members of media to acquire copies of Spot Reports especially if there is still ongoing investigation that may jeopardize the case.	3.71	HI	3.54	HI	3.48	HI	3.52	HI
2. As necessary and mandatory requirement that at the end of the narration, the duty officer who recorded the report shall place his/her signature.	3.78	HI	3.46	HI	3.5	HI	3.6	HI
3. Make sure that all the information gathered and filed is truthful and exact in its documentation.	3.06	I	3.3	HI	3.5	HI	3.63	HI
4. Police Officer see to it as much as possible indicate the accurate time and date on the report and file such report within the prescribe period of time to proper authorities.	3.04	I	3.4	HI	3.02	I	3.59	HI
5. Police Officer write down the names of all those who were involved in the operation such as the violators, witnesses and whoever may be listed as present during the operation for future reference.	3.82	HI	3.28	HI	3.5	HI	3.64	HI
6. Police Officer meet the required time and date in the submission of the report.	3.06	I	3.18	I	3.48	HI	3.58	HI
7. Police officer is consistent with implementing and giving decision when issuing citations.	3.82	HI	3.28	HI	3.48	HI	3.61	HI
8. Police officer working in timely manner with honesty and integrity, like prioritizing documents needed in a report.	3.8	HI	3.26	HI	3.48	HI	3.63	HI
9. Police officer are neutral to the community regardless of their sex, race, socio economic status.	3.8	HI	3.28	HI	3.48	HI	3.52	HI
10. Police officer assigned in investigation office is in charge on creating spot report.	3.82	HI	3.2	I	3.5	HI	3.63	HI
TOTAL	3.57	HI	3.32	HI	3.44	HI	3.51	HI

Table 11 presents the respondents' assessment of the implementation of ordinance enforcement in terms of reporting of cases, which obtained a grand mean of 3.44, interpreted as "Highly Implemented." While this rating is slightly lower than those for community service, issuance of violation receipts, and filing of cases, it still indicates that reporting procedures are regularly practiced and generally well executed in the barangays of the highly urbanized city. This suggests that barangay officials and law enforcement units maintain commendable levels of documentation, case recording, and information transmission, which are essential for ensuring transparency and continuity in the enforcement of ordinances. The literature emphasizes that systematic reporting is a foundational component of effective governance and public safety, as it enables accurate monitoring of violations, supports evidence-based decision-making, and provides accountability mechanisms for both enforcement agencies and local governments (Miller, 2017; Ferguson, 2016). The importance of reliable reporting systems is further supported by research showing that comprehensive documentation processes enhance coordination

across agencies and promote consistency in implementing local regulations (Indarti, 2020). Furthermore, studies on urban public safety underline that timely and accurate reporting contributes to crime prevention, enables improved response strategies, and strengthens inter-agency collaboration, particularly in densely populated areas where ordinance violations are more frequent (Shenoy et al., 2021; Li et al., 2022). Within the broader "Safe City" framework, reporting mechanisms are essential components of a data-driven governance environment, supporting the surveillance, monitoring, and evaluation of safety initiatives (Ristvej et al., 2020). The slightly lower mean compared to other indicators may reflect challenges commonly cited in the literature, such as limited manpower, resource constraints, and administrative bottlenecks that affect the consistency and timeliness of reporting procedures (Fletcher, 2009; Tandler, 2020). Nonetheless, the overall rating confirms that reporting remains a functional and integral part of ordinance enforcement, contributing to transparency, documentation integrity, and the sustained effectiveness of public safety measures in barangays.

Table 12 The assessments of the Philippine National Police (PNP)

INDICATORS	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS						GRAND MEAN	
	PNP		COMMUNITY		BARANGAY OFFICIAL			
	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI	WMA	VI
Community Service	3.76	HI	3.86	HI	3.74	HI	3.79	HI
Issuance Official Violation Receipt	3.58	HI	3.73	HI	3.71	HI	3.67	HI
Filing of cases	3.58	HI	3.70	HI	3.71	HI	3.66	HI
Reporting of cases	3.57	HI	3.32	HI	3.44	HI	3.44	HI
TOTAL	3.62	HI	3.65	HI	3.65	HI	3.64	HI

Table 12 shows that the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials, and community residents all rated the four implementation variables—community service, issuance of violation receipts, filing of cases, and reporting of cases—as "Highly Implemented," with grand means ranging narrowly from 3.62 to 3.65. The clustering of these mean scores demonstrates a strong consensus among all three stakeholder

groups, confirming that the ordinance implementation processes function consistently and effectively across barangays. This alignment supports the literature emphasizing that uniform and transparent enforcement fosters shared perceptions among the public and enforcement bodies. Indarti (2020) asserts that consistent law enforcement practices strengthen accountability and increase public

confidence, whereas Worrall and Kjaerulf (2018) emphasize that collaboration between the police, local officials, and residents enhances the perceived legitimacy of public safety initiatives. The strong rating for community service (3.79) mirrors research recognizing community service as an effective rehabilitative alternative that promotes civic responsibility and reduces recidivism (Bryant and Vuchinich, 1992; Tate, 1993). Similarly, high ratings for violation receipt issuance and case filing reflect structured enforcement systems, which are confirmed in the literature as essential for due process and fairness in local

governance (Lonerio, 2019; McMahon, 2019). Although reporting received the lowest mean (3.44), it remained within the “Highly Implemented” range, consistent with studies that identify reporting as resource-intensive but critical to monitoring and evaluation in public safety systems (Miller, 2017; Ferguson, 2016). The results confirm that all stakeholder groups perceive ordinance implementation in a similar and highly positive manner, reflecting stability, transparency, and consistency in local enforcement—core principles of Safe City governance (Ristvej et al., 2020; Tutak & Brodny, 2023).

Table 13 Test of significant difference in the assessment of the three respondents regarding The Implementation of Ordinances in the Barangays of a Highly Urbanized City.

Variables	F-Statistic	p-value	Decision Rule	Interpretation
Community Service	2.80	> 0.05	Accept H_0	No Significant Difference
Issuance of Violation Receipt	3.19	> 0.05	Accept H_0	No Significant Difference
Filing of Cases	3.15	> 0.05	Accept H_0	No Significant Difference
Reporting of Cases	3.20	> 0.05	Accept H_0	No Significant Difference

Table 13 presents the ANOVA results comparing the assessments of the Philippine National Police (PNP), barangay officials, and community residents across four ordinance implementation variables: community service, issuance of violation receipts, filing of cases, and case reporting. With the significance level set at $\alpha = 0.05$, all four tests yielded p-values greater than 0.05, leading to a uniform statistical conclusion: the null hypothesis (H_0) was accepted for all variables. This indicates that no significant differences exist among the three stakeholder groups, confirming that PNP personnel, barangay officials, and residents share a consistent and unified perception of ordinance implementation in the barangays of a highly urbanized city. The acceptance of the null hypothesis across all variables strengthens the credibility of earlier findings in Table 12, which showed that all respondent groups rated ordinance implementation as “Highly Implemented.” This absence of statistical differences reflects the type of stakeholder alignment emphasized in public safety literature. Worrall

and Kjaerulf (2018) note that consensus between law enforcement and community members is essential for preventing urban violence and improving trust in public institutions. Similarly, Indarti (2020) argues that when enforcement practices are standardized, transparent, and consistently applied, stakeholders tend to develop shared perceptions of effectiveness, which is demonstrated by the results in Table 13. The unified assessments across groups also align with research emphasizing the importance of stable governance structures in maintaining public order. Shenoy et al. (2021) highlighted that coordinated approaches to enforcement, where police, local officials, and community members operate with common understanding, enhance public safety and improve response strategies in urban environments. This finding is consistent with the “Safe City” framework,

Table 13 Test of significant difference in the assessment of the three respondents regarding The Implementation of Ordinances in the Barangays of a Highly Urbanized City. which as-

serts that integrated systems, consistent procedures, and collaborative governance contribute to predictable and effective ordinance implementation (Ristvej et al., 2020; Tutak & Brodny, 2023). Moreover, the statistical consensus supports Ferguson's (2016) insights into citizen feedback systems: when stakeholders perceive enforcement as fair and consistent, they are more likely to cooperate with authorities and participate in monitoring and reporting processes. This shared perception is essential in highly urbanized cities, where diverse populations and complex social dynamics require strong coordination among public safety stakeholders.

Programs that may enhance and strengthen the implementation of ordinances in the barangays of a highly urbanized city

- Increase public awareness and education of city ordinances. This can be done through hosting public events, providing informational materials, and engaging in community outreach.
- Increase collaboration between city officials and local businesses to ensure that all parties are aware of the ordinances and understand their implications.
- Ensure that all city ordinances are regularly updated and enforced. This can be done through regular reviews of the ordinances and their enforcement, as well as creating an enforcement plan for any violations.
- Create a formal, written complaint process for citizens to report any ordinance violations and provide feedback on their experiences.
- Develop a system of rewards and sanctions for those who comply with ordinances and those who do not.
- Establish a system of monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the ordinances are being implemented effectively.
- Develop a system for tracking and analyzing data related to ordinance enforcement and compliance.
- 8. Create a hotline or online platform for citizens to report violations or receive assistance with understanding ordinances.
- Develop partnerships with local organizations and businesses to increase the implementation of city ordinances.

- Utilize technology to create more efficient compliance systems and increase accessibility to city ordinances. (Dell 2017; Wichansky 2018; Kostadinov 2019). By increasing public awareness and education of city ordinances, collaborating with local businesses, regularly updating and enforcing ordinances, creating a formal complaint process, establishing rewards and sanctions for compliance, monitoring and evaluating ordinance implementation, tracking and analyzing data, providing easy access to information, creating partnerships with local organizations, and utilizing technology, cities can improve their implementation of city ordinances.

Other recommendations may include:

- Online Reporting System: Develop an online platform for citizens to report ordinance violations. This system should be easy to use and accessible, with a comprehensive database of ordinances to ensure compliance (Kerr, 2020).
- Automated Reminders: Develop automated reminders for citizens to inform them of upcoming ordinance deadlines, such as deadlines for building permits and zoning changes (Jones, 2019).
- Citizen Education: Create educational campaigns to inform citizens of their rights and responsibilities under the city's ordinances (Wang, 2018).
- Monitoring & Enforcement: Implement an ordinance monitoring system that uses data-driven methods to track compliance with ordinances and ensure enforcement (Miller, 2017).
- Citizen Feedback System: Develop a system for citizens to provide feedback on ordinances and the implementation of ordinances in their barangay (Ferguson, 2016).

Conclusion

This study evaluated the implementation of city ordinances in a highly urbanized Philippine city, revealing that enforcement practices are consistently and effectively executed across key stakeholders: police officers, barangay officials, and community residents. The findings demonstrate a strong consensus on the use of community service, issuance of violation

receipts, filing of cases, and reporting procedures, underscoring a unified and reliable approach to ordinance enforcement at the barangay level. Common violations, such as curfew breaches, public smoking, and drinking in public, remain persistent challenges, reflecting urban behavioral patterns and the complexities of managing densely populated areas. Although sanitation-related offenses are less prevalent, they continue to require attention to maintain community cleanliness and order. The overall results affirm that ordinance enforcement operates efficiently, supported by clear protocols and collaborative engagement between enforcement agencies and the public. Nonetheless, this study highlights opportunities to enhance documentation practices, increase public awareness, and strengthen reporting mechanisms. These improvements are vital as the city advances toward more data-driven, technology-enabled governance under Safe City frameworks, ensuring sustained public safety and security in an evolving urban landscape.

Recommendation

To enhance the effectiveness of city ordinance enforcement and public safety in the highly urbanized city, it is recommended to develop and implement an integrated digital management system that strengthens documentation, reporting, and public engagement. This system should feature a centralized, real-time database for recording violations and enforcement actions to promote transparency and accountability among stakeholders. Additionally, public-facing platforms such as mobile applications or web portals can be established to increase awareness of ordinances and facilitate citizen reporting of violations. Regular training for enforcement personnel and barangay officials on technology use and data management will maximize the system's benefits. Continuous monitoring and evaluation through data analytics should be employed to identify enforcement gaps and enable evidence-based policy adjustments. Furthermore, fostering collaboration with local communities and organizations will enhance trust and active participation in maintaining public order. These measures align with the city's progression to-

ward data-driven, technology-enabled governance within Safe City frameworks, ensuring sustained public safety and security in an increasingly complex urban environment

Acknowledgement

The researchers would like to express their sincere gratitude to all individuals and institutions who contributed to the completion of this study. Special thanks are extended to the barangay officials, police officers, and community residents who willingly participated as respondents. The researchers are also grateful to their respective colleges and mentors for their valuable guidance and support. Above all, they give thanks to Almighty God for the wisdom, strength, and perseverance that made this work possible.

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