

Office of the Governor of Guam

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Felix P. Camacho Governor

Michael W. Cruz, M.D. Lieutenant Governor

> The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Speaker *Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* 155 Hessler Street Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is Bill No.108 (COR) "AN ACT TO RE-ESTABLISH THE GUAM COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; TO AMEND §78105 AND §78108(a) OF CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, AND TO ADDE A NEW §78126 TO CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED" now designated as **Public Law 30-76**.

Sinseru yan Magåhet,

**FELIX P. CAMACHO** *I Maga'låhen Guåhan* Governor of Guam

Attachment: copy of Bill

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### MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

# **CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN**

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 108-30 (COR), "AN ACT TO *RE-ESTABLISH* THE GUAM COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; TO *AMEND* §78105 AND §78108 (a) OF CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND TO *ADD* A NEW §78126 TO CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED," returned without approval of *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*, was reconsidered by *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and after such consideration, did agree, on the 22<sup>ND</sup> day of January, 2010, to pass said bill notwithstanding the veto of *I Maga'lahen Guåhan* by a vote of eleven (11) Members.

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D. Speaker

Attested

Tina Rose Muña Barnes Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahen Guåhan* this 26 day

Janwary 2010, at 1:20 o'clock A.M.

OMCA

of

Assistant Staff Officer Maga'lahi's Office

Public Law No. \_\_\_\_\_

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# *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* 2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

#### Bill No. 108-30 (COR)

As substituted by the Committee on Public Safety, Law Enforcement and Senior Citizens and amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

v. c. pangelinan Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr. <u>T. C. Ada</u> F. B. Aguon, Ir

F. B. Aguon, Jr.
F. F. Blas, Jr.
E. J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
J. V. Espaldon
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
T. R. Muña Barnes
Matt Rector
R. J. Respicio
Ray Tenorio
Telo Taitague
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

AN ACT TO *RE-ESTABLISH* THE GUAM COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; TO *AMEND* §78105 AND §78108 (a) OF CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND TO *ADD* A NEW §78126 TO CHAPTER 78, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED.

#### **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
that the public has the right to expect all law enforcement personnel, particularly

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1 the police officers within the Guam Police Department (Department) to adhere to a 2 professional standard of conduct and all laws governing the island and its residents. 3 Model policies and guidelines may exist in the police department to deter and 4 punish misconduct, however, such standards, without objective and aggressive enforcement and compliance, will be rendered ineffective. 5 Silence and unresponsiveness, perceived or real, undermines the community-police relations, 6 and erodes the public's trust and confidence in those who are empowered to protect 7 8 them, their families and their properties.

9 Conversely, the rights and dignity of each accused personnel of the 10 Department must *not* be compromised, but protected in all cases. Unprofessional 11 and transgressing officers are an exception and *not* the rule. Those officers who 12 demonstrate signs of aberrant behaviors must be dealt with in a timely fashion so 13 that the collective public image of and confidence in the Department is *not* 14 perverted.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that Public Law 24-23, which 15 16 established the Department and stipulates the process by which alleged violations of the law on the part of a police officer or an employee of the Department shall be 17 18 investigated, is deficient. Currently, any person may file with any police officer a complaint alleging the commission of a crime on the part of a police officer or 19 20 employee of the Department. The alleged violations are then forwarded to the Internal Affairs unit of the Department. However, the fear of possible intimidation 21 22 and reprisal by imputed officers and the impression, whether legitimate or not, that 23 the Department is apathetic to public accusations against one of their own, 24 discourages the members of our community from reporting police misconduct.

Innate reluctance on the part of officers to report abuse *or* participate in detailed investigation of an allegation against one of their own, *or* breaking the "code of silence" due to prospective retaliation against deemed whistle-blowers *or*  participants, renders it difficult for the effective enforcement of this process.
 Finally, the Office of the Attorney General, including its prosecutors, is placed in a
 difficult position of investigating the same police officers it relies on for evidence
 in other criminal cases. Thus, the investigations are frequently and unjustly

perceived by the public as being covered up and biased.

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6 Maintenance of community credibility and restoration of the public trust 7 begins with and hinges on police accountability and aggressive enforcement of 8 internal policies to regulate those who protect our lives and our properties. Such a 9 process would insure public confidence in the impartiality of the investigation 10 process and results, and more importantly, in the administration of justice by our 11 men and women in blue.

12 It is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to provide a practicable and accessible means for the intake and processing of complaints against employees of 13 the Department, to inquire into such complaints and, when necessitated, to conduct 14 prompt and impartial investigations of legitimate public, criminal and other 15 accusations of misconduct against police officers and other employees of the 16 Department through direct community participation, while ensuring the rights and 17 18 dignity of each employee alleged to be in violation of the laws of Guam of any 19 standard of conduct that he or she is required to adhere to. A community police review commission, composed of civilians with the authority to carry out 20 21 independent investigations, but without any dependence on or conflict of interest 22 with these closely linked law enforcement agencies, would be best able to make an objective determination and recommendation as to the disposition of the complaint. 23

The Guam Community Police Review Commission was established in Public Law 25-46, however, it was abolished pursuant to Public Law 26-76 for failing to meet in over twelve (12) months.

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*I Liheslaturan Guåhan* intends to ensure that the rights and dignity of each
 accused employee of the Department are protected with the institution and
 implementation of a clear and impartial investigative process.

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It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to re-establish the Guam
Community Police Review Commission to comply with the provisions of its
mandate.

7 Section 2. Re-establishment. Chapter 78, Title 10, Guam Code
8 Annotated, as enacted by P.L. 25-46, is hereby *re-established* in its entirety.

9 Section 3. §78105 of Chapter 78, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
10 hereby *amended* to read:

11 **"§78105. Quorum.** A majority of the members of the Commission 12 *shall* constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the 13 concurrence of a majority of the members *shall* be necessary to make any 14 action of the Commission valid. No action *shall* be taken by the 15 Commission at any meetings or hearings, *unless* a quorum is present."

16 Section 4. §78108 (a) of Chapter 78, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
17 hereby *amended* to read:

- "(a) to receive complaints of the following alleged misconduct and
  actions directed against the Department and any of its employees and to
  fully and completely investigate said complaints:
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(1) use of excessive or deadly force;

- 22 (2) injuries to, or death of, a person while under the custody
  23 of the Guam Police Department;
- 24 (3) discrimination in the provision of police services, or
  25 other discriminatory conduct, on the basis of sex, race, color,
  26 ethnicity, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual
  27 preference, disability or age and other violations of civil rights;

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1 (4) theft; 2 (5)any other crime or misconduct which constitutes a felony 3 or felonies under the laws applicable to Guam; and 4 (6)any other crime or misconduct involving *more than* one 5 (1) employee." 6 A new §78126 is hereby added to Chapter 78, Title 10, Guam Section 5. 7 Code Annotated, to read: 8 **"§78126**. **Review.** Upon the enactment of this bill into law and immediately following the re- establishment of the Commission, 9 10 the Commission shall review Chapter 78 in its entirety and submit its 11 recommendations to I Liheslaturan Guåhan within one hundred In particular, the Commission shall review 12 twenty (120) days. §78119; shall consider office space and budgetary needs; and shall 13 consider the implications of its action on the Civil Service 14 Commission's adverse action procedures." 15 16 Severability. If any provision of this Law or its application to Section 6. 17 any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such

invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Law, which can

be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the

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provisions of this Law are severable.

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