

BELMONTE TO PUNISH FUNERAL HOMES REJECTING REMAINS OF COVID- 19 VICTIMS

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FUNERAL homes and crematoriums in Quezon City that reject the remains of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) victims or charge higher service fees from the families of the deceased will be punished, Mayor Josefina “Joy” Belmonte warned. Belmonte said in an ordinance approved by the Quezon City Council, funeral homes and crematoriums could not reject the remains of deceased Covid-19 patients due to fear of infection or other “unjustifiable reasons.” She added it prohibits funeral homes and crematoriums from increasing their service fees compared to their prices prior to the declaration of the community quarantine on March 12. “This is to protect grieving families of deceased Covid-19 victims from unscrupulous funeral parlors or crematoriums that may take advantage of the situation,” Belmonte said. Local hospitals and healthcare facilities within Quezon City are mandated to observe the mandatory cremation of Covid-19 patients within 12 hours from time of death to avoid the spread of the virus. The local government will shoulder the costs of the cremation if the deceased is an indigent resident of the city. Violators will face a maximum fine of P5,000 per violation, subsequent revocation of their business permit and an imprisonment of not more than six months.