36th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- 803 S-99

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE STANDARDIZATION OF FUNERAL CHARGES FOR THE INDIGENTS, AUTHORIZING THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF QUEZON CITY TO SET UP ITS OWN SYSTEM OF ACCREDITATION OF FUNERAL PARLORS AND FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS AND TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS THEREFOR, RESTRICTING WAKES TO SEVEN DAYS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Introduced by Councilor ELIZABETH A. DELARMENTE.
Co-Introduced by Councilors Godofredo T. Liban II, Marciano P. Medalla, Eric Z. Medina, Eufemio C. Lagumbay, Jesus C. Suntay, Marcel C. Rillo and Bayani V. Hipol.

WHEREAS, Quezon City has its share of indigents who cannot afford the fees charged for decent funeral services;

WHEREAS, the City government recognizes the right of all person, to decent funeral services regardless of socio-economic status;

WHEREAS, the practice of extending wakes to raise funds for funeral expenses should be discouraged since the unnecessary continuous exposure of a cadaver is unsanitary and could adversely affect the health of the living;

WHEREAS, accreditation of funeral parlors willing to provide decent funeral services for the indigent for a reasonable fee would make it possible for the poor to have the said privilege without extending the period of wakes;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. Duly accredited funeral parlors in Quezon City shall peg a standard fee for decent funeral services to indigents of the City which shall not exceed Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

SECTION 2. For this purpose, an appropriate agency under the Office of the City Mayor, hereinafter referred to as the agency, for brevity, is hereby authorized to set up, establish and implement a system of accreditation and/or registration of funeral parlors doing business in Quezon City. The accredited funeral parlors shall comply with such implementing guidelines, rules and regulations as may be formulated by the agency in the effective enforcement of this Ordinance. The City Mayor shall designate the agency within a period of one month after the approval of this Ordinance.

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SECTION 3. A list of accredited funeral parlors shall be furnished each Punong Barangay in Quezon City by the agency for their information and proper guidance.

SECTION 4. Indigents, as the term is understood under this ordinance, shall mean families or individual persons living on their own who earn a combined or individual monthly income of less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and who do not own personal properties worth more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) as certified by the Punong Barangay in their respective locality.

SECTION 5. Relatives of persons seeking to avail of the benefits under this ordinance shall secure a certification from their Punong Barangay stating that the deceased and/or his family is/are indigents. To be entitled to the benefits herein granted, such certification shall be presented to the accredited funeral parlors.

SECTION 6. The agency shall notify in writing all duly accredited funeral parlors in Quezon City of the coverage of the term "decent funeral services" and the standard rate of pay that they are to charge for indigents availing thereof.

SECTION 7. The agency shall, every year thereafter, automatically review the prescribed charges/fees through public hearings, which shall not be held longer than one (1) month, and shall inform the duly accredited funeral parlors of the maintained or changed rates therefor, as the case may be. The agency shall regularly update the list of accredited funeral parlors and provide Punong Barangays with copy of the updated list.

SECTION 8. It shall be unlawful to wake for a deceased whose relatives have availed of the benefits of this Ordinance for a period longer than seven (7) days, except, for meritorious compelling reasons, when permitted or allowed in writing by the agency. Any violation of the provision of this Section shall render the immediate members of the family of the deceased person/s in charge of the wake liable for a fine of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) for every day beyond the seventh day of the wake.

SECTION 9. Accredited funeral parlors found charging more than the prescribed rate or fee from the duly certified beneficiaries of this Ordinance shall be penalized, for the first offense, with a suspension of their business permit/license for one month, and for the second and subsequent offenses, with a revocation of their business permit/license.

SECTION 10. Funds for the implementation of this Ordinance, when necessary, shall be appropriated in the Annual Budget of the Quezon City government.

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SECTION 11. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

ENACTED: August 17, 1999.

GODOFREDO T. LIBAN II
Majority Floor Leader
Acting Presiding Officer

ATTESTED :

EUGENIO V. JURILLA
City Council Secretary

APPROVED: _____

CONNIE S. ANGELES
Acting City Mayor

mdd/mai/mos**

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