



Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
21st City Council

PO21CC-014
PO21CC-051

10th Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP- 2865, S-2019

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FREE MORTUARY SERVICES FOR QUALIFIED INDIGENT QUEZON CITY RESIDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Councilors ALLAN BUTCH T. FRANCISCO and MARRA C. SUNTAY.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Bernard R. Herrera, Lena Marie P. Juico, Dorothy A. Delarmente, M.D., Tany Joe "TJ" L. Calalay, Nicole Ella V. Crisologo, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, Atty. Bong Liban, Eden Delilah "Candy" A. Medina, Mikey F. Belmonte, Estrella C. Valmocina, Franz S. Pumaren, Kate Galang-Coseteng, Matias John T. Defensor, Wencerom Benedict C. Lagumbay, Jorge L. Banal, Sr., Peachy V. De Leon, Imee A. Rillo, Irene R. Belmonte, Resty B. Malañgen, Ivy L. Lagman, Hero M. Bautista, Jose A. Visaya, Karl Castelo, Patrick Michael Vargas, Shaira L. Liban, Ram V. Medalla, Marivic Co Pilar, Melencio "Bobby" T. Castelo, Jr., Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Donato "Donny" C. Matias, Eric Z. Medina and Noe Dela Fuente.

WHEREAS, today, dying has become as costly as living itself. This is because funeral services are expensive, a reality confronting a large number of our constituents. They die poor and their families left behind indebted;

WHEREAS, average funeral service packages ranges from Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php25,000) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000) for a decent funeral services, while memorial lots in public and private cost an average of Five Thousand Pesos to Fifty Thousand Pesos for lot package including succeeding lease installments;

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WHEREAS, death to one's family doubly tragic for those poor families, who lost their breadwinner and their economic status neither sustain their daily needs nor shoulder the funeral expenses of their departed loved ones;

WHEREAS, the City Mayor, Honorable Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte, on her inaugural speech as the newly-elected Quezon City Mayor has promised to increase the burial assistance from Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000) to Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php25,000), as a part of her administration's "serving with our hearts" governance;

WHEREAS, the City Administration recognizes the need to support the poor sector of the city at the time of their death through giving them decent burial considering the prohibitive cost which continues to escalate bringing in more suffering to the bereaved family;

WHEREAS, "decent funeral services", shall be pegged at Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000) as the burial assistance to be given by the Quezon City Social Services Development Department (SSDD), thereby providing a free burial assistance to indigent Quezon City residents;

WHEREAS, "decent funeral services package", shall include the provision of an ordinary white casket, embalming, wake for seven (7) days, lighting and devotional equipment, use of hearse, death certificate and interment at the city-owned cemetery.

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. TITLE - This Ordinance shall be known as "Quezon City Libreng-Palibing Ordinance of 2019."

SECTION 2. DEFINITION OF TERMS - The terms and phrases as used in this Ordinance shall mean the following:

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a. *Indigent Family* – shall mean families or individual persons living on their own who earn a combined or individual monthly income of less than Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000) and who do not own personal properties worth more than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000) as certified by the Punong Barangay in their respective locality.

b. *Decent Funeral Service* – refer to the preparation of funeral documents, embalming, burial and/or interment, including the provision of casket and wake services.

SECTION 3. DECENT FUNERAL SERVICES PACKAGE – A Decent Funeral Services Package shall be provided for Quezon City qualified indigent resident by accredited funeral homes within Quezon City. Provided, that said funeral service or package selected by the beneficiary does not exceed the cost of the “decent funeral service” package. The Decent Funeral Package shall include the provision of an ordinary white casket, embalming and funeral wake for seven (7) days, transport of the corpse and interment at the city-owned cemetery.

SECTION 4. STANDARD COST OF DECENT FUNERAL SERVICES – A Decent Funeral Services Standard Cost shall not exceed the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php25,000) and shall include services provided in Section 2 hereof.

SECTION 5. GRANT OF FREE DECENT FUNERAL SERVICES FOR INDIGENT FAMILIES – An amount in a form of guarantee letter not exceeding Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php25,000) shall be granted to each indigent family to the accredited funeral homes by the Social Services Development Department (SSDD). The grant of burial assistance under this Ordinance is without prejudice to the right of the beneficiary to avail of other financial assistance given outside of the Quezon City government.

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SECTION 6. REQUIREMENTS FOR AVAILING FREE DECENT FUNERAL SERVICE – Before an indigent family can avail of the free decent funeral services, the following documents shall be prepared for submission: a) Certified True Copy of Death Certificate, b) Duly Notarized Funeral Contract, c) Certificate of Indigency from the Barangay that they belong to an indigent family as defined under Section 2 (a). Provided, however, that the certification shall not be a requirement before any member of the family of the deceased could avail of the services of the funeral parlor.

SECTION 7. FUNDING - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Ordinance shall be taken from the general appropriations ordinance.

SECTION 8. REIMBURSEMENT - City-accredited funeral homes granting free decent funeral services to indigent families shall reimburse the cost of the package from the SSDD upon approval of the Head of Office provided that proper certification as to the veracity of the claim is certified true and correct by the SSDD.

SECTION 9. IMPLEMENTATION – The Social Services Development Department (SSDD) shall implement the provisions of this Ordinance and issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Ordinance.

SECTION 10. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Ordinance or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE - Any ordinance, executive order or issuances, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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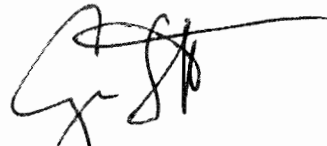
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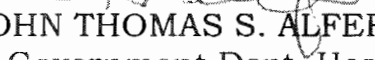
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SECTION 12. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE - This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and posted in at least three (3) conspicuous places in Quezon City, in compliance with Section 59, Chapter 3, Title II, Book 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991 (R.A. No. 7160), as amended.


ENACTED: September 16, 2019.


GIAN G. SOTTO
City Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:



Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Government Dept. Head III

APPROVED: 09 OCT 2019


MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on September 16, 2019 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on September 30, 2019.


Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Government Dept. Head III



