

MARYLAND BOARD OF MORTICIANS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

January 20, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER/GREETINGS:** Board President, Dr. Mark Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the open session to discuss Legislative Action concerning SB84 – Funeral Establishments and Crematories – Unclaimed Cremains of Veterans – Notification, Disposition, and Reporting.

Board Members Present: Dr. Mark Bailey, President; Michele Kutta, 1st Vice President; Robert Lang, 2nd Vice President; Kirk Helfenbein, Secretary; Brandon Wylie; Sheria Jennings, Suzana Kuriadom.

Board Member Absent: Robert Bradshaw, Dr. Ahmed Elzaree, Melanie Oppat, Dr. James Kalshoven.

Board Staff Present: Christy Collins, Executive Director; Deborah Donohue, Esq., Interim Board Counsel; Lillian Reese, Board Legislative Coordinator.

2. **PRESIDENT’S REMARKS:** Dr. Bailey reported on a meeting with Senator Simonaire regarding SB84, expressing the Board’s concerns about the bill’s proposal for the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors to assume responsibilities for data collection and enforcement and how this new requirement would have an adverse impact on the Board, as was discussed and voted on at the Board’s January 8, 2020 open meeting. As a result of this meeting, Senator Simonaire will be submitting to the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee two (2) amendments to the language of SB84. These would remove Section 2 of the bill regarding the new reporting responsibilities of the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors and make a corresponding change in the bill description.

3. **LEGISLATIVE ACTION:**

- I. Legislative Committee Chair Sheria Jennings made a motion to have the Board approve taking a position of supporting SB84 with Senator Simonaire’s amendments. The motion was seconded by Michele Kutta, and the Board unanimously approved supporting SB84 with the amendments.
- II. Chair Sheria Jennings made a motion to submit a Letter of Support for SB84 with Senator Simonaire’s amendments. The motion was seconded by Michele Kutta and the Board unanimously approved submitting a Letter of Support for SB84 with the amendments.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** Sheria Jennings made a motion for adjournment, which was seconded by Michele Kutta, and with unanimous Board approval, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.