



Monroe County Legislature

VINCENT R. FELDER
DEMOCRATIC MINORITY LEADER

ERNEST FLAGLER-MITCHELL
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May 10, 2021

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No.	<u>210172</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
HUMAN SERVICES	-L

Subject: Amending the Dignified Indigent Burial Act of 2021 to increase the Maximum Qualifying Funeral Costs Threshold for the Supplemental Funeral Assistance Program

Honorable Legislators:

In March of 2021, this Honorable Body enacted legislation increasing the Supplemental Funeral Assistance Grant for families who are without financial means to have a dignified burial for loved ones who have passed away. While this legislation was a first-step in addressing the underlying issue of indigent burials, further conversations have confirmed that the new barrier to accessing this grant is the \$6,000 cap for funeral costs.

According to the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA), the median cost for a funeral in 2019 was \$7,640. While this Honorable Body took action to increase the funds available to these families in need, the current maximum funeral cost \$6,000 makes it difficult for families to strike a balance between an economical and dignified burial. This often resorts to families settling for other alternatives like cremation, which is often not in accordance with one's religious beliefs. In turn, rendering the increased grant funds null if the majority of people in need of them are unable to qualify.

The specific legislative actions required is to amend Resolution No. 67 of 2021 to insert a new section to increase the maximum total funeral cost for the Supplemental Funeral Assistance Grant to an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

This action is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c) (26) ("routine of continuing agency administration and management, not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment") and is not subject to further review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

No additional net county support is required in the current Monroe County budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent R. Felder
Democratic Minority Leader

Ernest Flagler-Mitchell
Black & Asian Caucus Leader