

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2023
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Members Present:

- Felicia Wimberly, President
- Tommy Davis
- Joe Westbury
- Bradley Anderson
- Shanna Jackson Sheats

Others Present:

- Brad Coman, Executive Director
- Melanie Foster, Licensing Supervisor
- Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
- Clarissa Thomas, Licensing Analyst
- Brian Pelon, Assistant Attorney General *

Members Absent:

- Bryant Hightower
- Nancy Kennedy

* *via teleconference*

Note: Visitors are excused during Executive Session unless scheduled for a personal appearance.

Felicia Wimberly, President noted that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., and declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§50-14-1 et seq.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda

Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to approve the November 14, 2023 agenda.

Minutes

Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to approve the October 10, 2023 Open Session minutes and Executive Session minutes.

Ratification List

Licenses Issued 9/28/2023 – 11/8/2023 (Total – 21): Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the licenses issued between meetings by application and reinstatement in accordance with Board Rules and Policies.

License #	Licensee	License #	Licensee
FD009732	Justin Xavier White	FD009731	Charlie L Smith Jr
EMB026552	Steve Elliott Rushton	EMB026554	Jeremy Len Parish
FD009733	Jeremy Len Parish	FD009734	Joanna Rosenwald Helms
EMB026558	Richard Chadwick Boyd	FD009736	Steve Emanuel Coeur
EMB026557	Steve Emanuel Coeur	FD009735	Lisa Futch Mako
FSA007076	LaShawn Fred Ashley	FSA007075	Bryan Lee Elliott
FD009737	Richard Chadwick Boyd	FSA007074	Glenda Juanita Henry
FSA007077	Ashleigh Carole Sanger	EMB026556	Lisa Futch Mako
EMB026553	Justin Xavier White	EMB026555	Joanna Rosenwald Helms
FSA007073	Jana Elizabeth Hall	FEST002133	H. William Lee
EMB026551	Charlie L Smith Jr		

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(h) and 43-18, for the purpose of conducting applicant interviews, discussing and reviewing applications and complaints, and to hear the Attorney General's report.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Felicia Wimberly, President, declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 et seq., at 1:47 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the motion was carried by the Board to ratify the following recommendations made during the Executive Session:

Appointments

Appearance # 3121234 / 3121270 – F.H.F.H.A.C.S. – Change of Name – Table – Need proof of ownership.

Appearance # 4004839 – Vincent R. Drummer Funeral Home – Change of Location with Jamie Stewart as FDFCC – Approved. Bradley Anderson recused.

Appearance # 3107076 – P.M. – Funeral Service Apprentice – Approved with a letter of reservation regarding pending criminal charges. Applicant to provide certified court documents showing final disposition of case within 10 days of adjudication.

Appearance # 3104289 – M.F.H.A.C.S. – Change of FDFCC – No show. Reschedule for next Board Meeting.

Appearance # 3090971 – S.F.H.. – Change of FDFCC - No show. Reschedule for next Board Meeting.

Appearance # 3088469 – C.C.S. – Change of FDFCC - No show. Reschedule for next Board Meeting.

Appearance # 3121098 – T.S.W. – Board discussion.

Applications

Application # 4002712 – Robert Prindiville – Embalmer and Funeral Director by Endorsement – Approved.

Application # 3114181 – V.K. – Funeral Service Apprentice – Approve with supervising licensees and establishment that meets the requirements for training site. Hours cannot be completed at facility that does not qualify as a site pursuant to Board Rule 250-4-.06.

Application # 3119313 – Stacy Ball - Embalmer and Funeral Director by Reciprocity – Approved.

Application # 3116827 – Crawford & Crawford LLC – Change of Location with Ronnie Crawford remaining as the FDFCC – Approved.

Application # 3121833 – Harrington Family Mortuary and Cremation Services – New Establishment with Aden Fluker as FDFCC – Approved.

Complaints

FUN240018 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement from FDFCC.

FUN240016 – Close – Letter of Concern to FDFCC regarding unethical and unprofessional conduct.

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Attorney General’s Report

The Board reviewed and accepted the Attorney General’s report, which included information on any cases referred for action and requests for advice.

Continuing Education – Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the motion carried by the Board to accept the Continuing Education Committee’s recommendations to approve the following continuing education courses as presented:

Provider	Course	Points
Continuing Vision	Warning! Radioactive Seeds & What Funeral Directors / Embalmers / Crematory Operators Need to Know	1
Continuing Vision	Transformative Times: Working with Transgender and LGBTQA & Families	1
Continuing Vision	Say This, Not That: Compassionate Communication in the Funeral Industry	2
Continuing Vision	Mentoring The Future: Collaborating with New Mortuary School Graduates	1
Continuing Vision	Elevating Empathy: Employing Conscious Capitalism in the Funeral Industry	1
Continuing Vision	Are You Facing It or Fearing It? The Transformation of Deathcare	2
Continuing Vision	Pediatric Funeral Care	1
Continuing Vision	Generation Inspiration: Excelling Through Collaboration	1
Continuing Vision	4 Big Changes in Grief & Why F.D. Should Care	1
Continuing Vision	Families Gone Wild: Defusing Conflict in the Arrangement Room	1
Continuing Vision	Psychology of Death	1
Continuing Vision	Suicide Survivors	1
Regulatory Support Services	OSHA – Did You Forget Something?	2
Regulatory Support Services	Tales of the Unexpected, FTC Opinions of the Funeral Rule	1
Regulatory Support Services	Ethics – Decisions, Decisions, Decisions	1
Regulatory Support Services	Not Your Grandfather’s Buick	1
NFDMA	Who is NFDMA?	1
NFDMA	The Time is Now: Social Media Etiquette	2
NFDMA	Want to Own: Pros, Cons, What's Needed	2
NFDMA	The End of Direct Cremation	2
NFDMA	Getting Back to the Basics with Restorative Art	2
NFDMA	Preparing to Sit for the National Board Exam for Funeral Service (or any test)	2
NFDMA	How to Improve Mental Health in the Funeral Industry & Beyond	2

OTHER BUSINESS

Docketed Orders – Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to accept the docketed orders as presented:

Type	Licensee	License/Application #	Docket #	City
Consent Order	Elizabeth Blunt	EMB005322, FD005721	2023-0950	Marietta
Consent Order	F L Sims Funeral Home	FEST001884	2023-1026	Smyrna

Facility Change of Ownership:

The Board reviewed the following change of ownership:

Facility	License #	Seller	Purchaser	Notification Date
Henry-Cochran F.H.	FEST001282	Estate of Stephen Cochran	Gabriel Cochran	10/10/2023
Cochran Funeral Home	FEST001316	Estate of Stephen Cochran	Gabriel Cochran	10/10/2023
Cochran Funeral Home	FEST001153	Estate of Stephen Cochran	Gabriel Cochran	10/10/2023
Finch-Cochran F.H.	FEST000131	Estate of Stephen Cochran	Gabriel Cochran	10/10/2023

Grace Period Requests:

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Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted unanimously on the following 90-day grace period request:

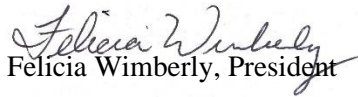
Type	Decision	License / App #	City	Expiration
Thorton Funeral Home	Approved	FEST000541	Lagrange	1/11/2024

Legislative Discussion

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed Senate Bill 209, which, in addition to other changes, aims to separate the licenses to no longer require an Embalmer license as a prerequisite to a Funeral Director license, and set licensing requirements for a Funeral Director only license. The Board unanimously voted to continue discussion about the proposed bill at the next Board meeting.

There being no further business, Felicia Wimberly, President, declared the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m. The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: December 12, 2023.


Felicia Wimberly, President


Brad Coman, Executive Director