



Maryland Cemetery and Cremation Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As a member of MCCA, we are pleased to share with you this Legislative Update provided by our lobbyist and consultant, John R. Stierhoff, Esq., a Partner at VENABLE LLP

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A new bill introduced by Baltimore City Councilman Mark Conway, D-District 4, could change where crematoriums are allowed to operate in the city. The move comes in response to rising concerns from residents in North Baltimore, where Vaughn Greene Funeral Services plans to install a crematorium at its York Road location.

“It pulls it out of funeral homes and cemeteries and very clearly determines that it can be allowed in certain zoning districts,” Conway said. “It is pulling it now out of C2, which is a zoning district that is designed to be around densely populated neighborhoods like the York Road corridor.”

Local residents have expressed strong opposition to the crematorium plan, raising concerns over potential air quality issues and the release of harmful chemicals.

“Incinerators are the source of some of the worst environmental pollutants,” said Lisa Polyak, who works with the York Road Partnership. “Things like metals, acid gases, and dioxin.”

Some fear that the facility could pose health risks to the community.

“Crematoriums release a lot of obnoxious gasses and dangerous chemicals that we know are not good for human health, and we want to make sure that they’re not in densely populated neighborhoods,” Conway said.

However, Vaughn Greene Funeral Services said that their crematorium is necessary to meet the increasing demand for cremation services at their York Road location. The funeral home pointed out that crematoriums in other counties have operated without causing harm to surrounding communities.

When reached for comment, a representative from Vaughn Greene Funeral Services stated that they are reviewing the proposed legislation and will respond after taking appropriate steps. The debate continues as residents and local officials await further developments on the bill.

(Source: Khiree Stewart, WBAL-TV)