

I identified 5 Not-for-Profit Jewish Funeral Homes from across the country representing the following locations, San Francisco California, Seattle Washington, Detroit Michigan, Passaic and Surrounding Counties in New Jersey and NYC New York.

We compared the cost for a Graveside service, with taharah, shroud and a Plain Pine Casket.

The least expensive was in Seattle at \$5,000.00 and the most was San Francisco at \$7,400.00. The contract that JFPGW contract in Maryland is \$3,330.00. That is \$1,670.00 less than the least expensive not-for-profit and 43% less than the average of the 5 not-for-profit, which is \$5,864.40

That is not something our community should be proud of.

In contrast, I also gathered information from 15 Jewish funeral homes across the country, mostly independent and some corporate. The states include, CA, MO, FL, MD, NJ, NY, IL, MA, DC, OH, PA, and CO. The average cost for the same package is \$7,679. In Maryland, the average for Levinsons, Torchinsky and Sagel Bloomfield is \$7,775.

When you look at all 20 funeral homes in the study I did, the difference between the Not-for-Profit average and the For-Profit average is \$1,815.00. Not-for-profits are 24% less than their For-Profit counterparts. In sharp contrast, the JFPGW contract price of \$3,330.00 is approximately 43% less than the average of the Not-For-Profits in the study and approximately 57% less than the average of For-Profit funeral homes and approximately 57.5% less than the average of the combined average of Levinson, Torchinsky and Sagel Bloomfield.

According to ChatGPT, Not-for-profit funeral homes can save families 20-30%. There are obviously a large variations regarding services and merchandise selected but it gives us a framework. This helps to show the disparity between the JFPGW contract amount with the reality of the Jewish funeral industry across the country. The JFPGW has nothing to base their contract price on, they have no facility or staff to pay, no cost of goods or other bills to pay. They simply work off an antiquated number that we have shown has not been kept up to industry averages.

A not-for-profit Jewish funeral home in the DMV charging in the ballpark of the JFPGW contract price will not survive. They would need to charge much more and maybe that is a better solution for them to realize now rather than requesting laws be changed to meet their unjustifiable price point.