

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Trisha Linebarger](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, August 17, 2018 11:08:47 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sunset@sunset.texas.gov <sunset@sunset.texas.gov> On Behalf Of Texas Sunset Commission
Sent: Friday, August 17, 2018 10:49 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <Sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Agency: TEXAS FUNERAL SERVICE COMMISSION TFSC

First Name: James

Last Name: Lucas

Title: Funeral Director / Cremation Specialist: Owner & Operator

Organization you are affiliated with: Lucas Funeral Homes and Cremation Services

Email: jimmy@familyowned.net

City: Fort Worth

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or
Opposed:
REVISED COMMENTS

SUPPORT - Issue 4: Most importantly I am very supportive of the staff recommendation to "continue the Texas Funeral Service Commission for 12 years." My family has been serving Texas families for 150 years and I'm passionate that every family be treated with compassion and respect. The Texas Funeral Service Commission is very unique as death is very personal and requires special attention that only a stand alone agency can provide.

SUPPORT - Issue 3: I do support the staff recommendation to "discontinue TFSC's regulation of non-perpetual care cemeteries". Being that the TFSC oversees only 5 of the 50,000 cemeteries in Texas, it seems that there is a more efficient way to protect consumers while regulating these cemeteries.

OPPOSE - Issue 3 / Key Recommendations: I am strongly opposed to the staff Key Recommendation to "replace the member of the TFSC commission who must be a cemetery owner or operator with a public member". The balance of the TFSC members is made up of 4 public members and 3 industry professionals (2 Funeral Director / Embalmer and 1 Cemetery Owner). I attend many TFSC meetings and my observation has been the current structure, 4 public members and 3 industry professionals is very balanced. I find the industry professionals have been a great resource to the public members which has allowed for positive collaboration in which has allowed the TFSC to serve its mission.

RECOMMENDATION: I would recommend that the Cemetery Owner be replaced with a Crematory Owner / Operator. The TFSC has one member that is a cemetery owner that pertains to 5 cemeteries the TFSC regulates. While the TFSC regulates 164 crematories but has no qualifications of its members to have crematory owner/operator experience. National statistics show that 53.3% of Americans will choose cremation by the end of 2018. The TFSC staff report also

disclosed that only 36% of Texas crematories were inspected in 2017. As cremation continues to become the overwhelming choice of disposition for Texans, that representation should be reflected in knowledge, resources and expertise of the members of the Texas Funeral Service Commission.

COMMENTS: My family and I are honored to own and operate 16 family-owned funeral homes and 2 crematories in the Great State of Texas. Each year over 1,800 Texas families trust my family and co-workers to serve them on one of life's most difficult days. This trust is sacred to me, my family and profession.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

New Recommendation: I would recommend that the Cemetery Owner be replaced with a Crematory Owner / Operator. The TFSC has one member that is a cemetery owner that pertains to 5 cemeteries the TFSC regulates. While the TFSC regulates 164 crematories but has no qualifications of its members to have crematory owner/operator experience. National statistics show that 53.3% of Americans will choose cremation by the end of 2018. The TFSC staff report also disclosed that only 36% of Texas crematories were inspected in 2017. As cremation continues to become the overwhelming choice of disposition for Texans, that representation should be reflected in knowledge, resources and expertise of the members of the Texas Funeral Service Commission.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree