STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION	:	
vs.	:	Case #: C14-0601
VJ BERARDUCCI AND SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS FUNERAL HOME LICENSE: FH 00149	:	

IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE ORDER

Now comes the Director of Health of the State of Rhode Island and pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 23-1-21 makes the following Findings and Order:

FINDINGS

1. VJ Berarducci and Sons Funeral Directors (hereinafter referred to as Respondent) is a funeral establishment licensed by the Department of Health (hereinafter referred to as Department) pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 5-33.2-12 and holds license number FH 00149. Its registered address is 28 Grove Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909.
2. Respondent has the same registered address as Pennine Funeral Home. Pennine Funeral Home is a funeral establishment licensed by the Department of Health (hereinafter referred to as Department) pursuant to R.I.G.L. § 5-33.2-12 and holds license number FH 00109.
3. On or about July 25, 2014, the Director of Health suspended the funeral establishment license of Pennine Funeral Home until further order of the Department. The suspension was based on the fact that Pennine Funeral Home had no registered funeral director of

record and that bodies had been found at Pennine Funeral Home that were not properly stored and/or prepared pursuant to statute and/or regulation. Some of the bodies were unidentified. The bodies were moved to the Medical Examiner's Office for further investigation. The state of the bodies constituted a threat to public health.

4. The facility at 28 Grove Street, Providence, Rhode Island continues to be part of the investigation into the identity of the bodies.
5. The Department has no evidence that Respondent was aware of or was otherwise involved in the storage or preparation violations at 28 Grove Street, Providence, Rhode Island. To protect the public safety, the Department is issuing this order so that no funeral directing or embalming may occur at 28 Grove Street, Providence, Rhode Island while this matter is under investigation.
6. Based on the condition of the bodies at the time of discovery, the facility must be inspected before embalming and/or funeral directing activities can resume to determine if the facility continues to be a threat to public health.

ORDER

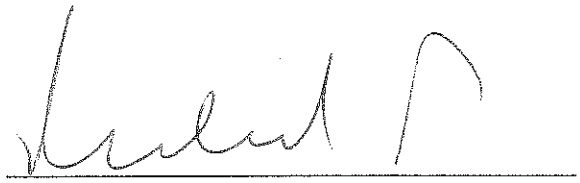
After consideration of the above findings, it is hereby ordered that Respondent must immediately comply with the following:

1. Respondent must immediately cease any and all funeral directing or embalming activities at 28 Grove Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909.
2. Nothing in this Immediate Compliance Order prohibits the funeral director of record of Respondent from continuing to conduct funeral directing and embalming activities at other funeral homes pursuant to statute or regulations.

3. Such Order shall continue indefinitely pending further order of the Department of Health and completion of a satisfactory inspection.

If Respondent wishes to have a hearing on this Order, a written request must be made to Maureen Slowick, Administrator of the Board of Funeral Directors, Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Room 104, Providence, RI 02903 on or before August 19, 2014. For questions, Respondent should contact Amy Coleman, Esq., at (401)222-3916.

Signed this 20 of July, 2014.



Michael Fine, M.D.
Director of Health
R.I. Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 401
Providence, RI 02908-5097
Tel. (401) 222-2213
Fax (401) 222-6548

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the within IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE ORDER was sent by regular and certified mail to:

Michael Berarducci
VJ Berarducci and Sons
28 Grove Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02909

on this 30th day of June 2014.