

File No. 210399

Committee Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

Board Item No. 29

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: April 20, 2021

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- Public Correspondence

### OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: April 16, 2021

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2021]

2

3 **Resolution designating April 24, 2021, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day”**  
4 **in the City and County of San Francisco, and urging President Joseph Biden to**  
5 **formally recognize the Armenian Genocide and the San Francisco Board of Education**  
6 **to reaffirm its commitment to teaching the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide in**  
7 **our public schools.**

8

9 WHEREAS, The Armenian people, living in their historic homeland of 4,000 years,  
10 were subjected to severe persecution by the Turkish government of the Ottoman Empire  
11 before and after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres, usurpation  
12 of land and property, and destruction of cultural institutions and monuments during the period  
13 from 1894 to 1896 and again in 1909; and

14 WHEREAS, The unspeakable horrors experienced by the Armenian people at the  
15 hands of the Ottoman Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians  
16 as the first modern-era genocide of the twentieth century; and

17 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and implemented the atrocities  
18 committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923, resulting in the murder of  
19 1.5 million Armenian women, men and children, and the expropriation or destruction of all  
20 their personal and community properties; and

21 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide, the Near East Relief Organization was  
22 established, one of the earliest U.S. government-sanctioned international aid projects, to  
23 support the genocide survivors, including Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks, raising  
24 approximately two billion dollars in today’s currency and saving approximately one million  
25 refugees, including 132,000 orphans of the genocide; and

1           WHEREAS, The Republic of Turkey denies the occurrence of these well-documented  
2 and widely-recognized crimes against humanity and refuses to provide reparations, while  
3 actively continuing to remove traces of Armenians' existence in their historic homeland,  
4 including the destruction of landmarks of Armenian cultural heritage; and

5           WHEREAS, Beginning on September 27, 2020, the devastating 44-day attack on the  
6 ethnically-Armenian region of Artsakh (also known as Nagorno-Karabagh) by Azerbaijan with  
7 the military and political support of Turkey, was largely the result of the unfettered denial of  
8 the Armenian Genocide by both Turkey and Azerbaijan; and

9           WHEREAS, San Francisco experienced a series of dangerous and damaging hate  
10 crimes against its Armenian institutions between July and September 2020, including an  
11 arson fire that engulfed the Armenian Cultural Center, gutting two out of its four floors, and the  
12 vandalization of the Armenian School Krouzian-Zekarian-Vasbouragan and its adjacent  
13 Armenian Community Center with racist and hateful anti-Armenian graffiti; and

14           WHEREAS, Acts of hate have no place in San Francisco and must be condemned and  
15 punished to the fullest extent of the law, while the Armenian American community deserve all  
16 support necessary in order to heal and recover from hate crimes; and

17           WHEREAS, By honoring the survivors of the Armenian Genocide, teaching the facts of  
18 Armenian Genocide in our schools and consistently condemning the repeated atrocities  
19 committed against the Armenian people, as well as the persecution of the Assyrian and Greek  
20 populations of the Ottoman Empire, we guard against the repetition of genocide in the future;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, California has become home to the largest and most active population of  
23 Armenians in the United States, who have enriched our state through leadership in the fields  
24 of academia, medicine, business, agriculture, government, and the arts and are proud and  
25 patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; and

1           WHEREAS, As most San Francisco Armenian-Americans are descendants of the few  
2 remaining survivors of the Genocide, San Francisco is proud to join the Armenian American  
3 community in its commemoration of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to  
4 educate others about the tragic loss of life, land, and human rights of the Armenian people  
5 and the crime of genocide committed against them; and

6           WHEREAS, California Assembly Member Nazarian sponsored Assembly Bill No. 1915  
7 to require the Instructional Quality Commission to consider including the Armenian genocide  
8 in the California Department of Education’s History-Social Science Content Standards, which  
9 the Department formally included in 2017; and

10           WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives adopted House Resolution  
11 No. 296 (Schiff) on October 29, 2019, which states it is U.S. policy to commemorate the  
12 Armenian Genocide, reject efforts to associate the U.S. government with efforts to deny the  
13 existence of the Armenian Genocide, and encourage education and public understanding  
14 about the Armenian Genocide; and

15           WHEREAS, The United States Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 150 (Menendez)  
16 on December 12, 2019, which formally recognizes and affirms the historical facts of the  
17 Armenian Genocide on behalf of the U.S. government and calls for broader education on this  
18 heinous crime and its impact on generations of Armenians; now, therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
20 hereby designates April 24, 2021, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day” in the City  
21 and County of San Francisco; and, be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the San Francisco Board  
23 of Education to reaffirm its commitment to teaching the historical facts of the Armenian  
24 Genocide in San Francisco Unified School District schools, as outlined in the California  
25 Department of Education's History-Social Science Content Standards; and, be it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges President Joseph Biden  
2 to abide by his campaign pledge to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide; and, be it

3           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board  
4 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the San Francisco Board of Education and the City  
5 Lobbyist, respectively, upon final passage.

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# Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp  
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor [ ] inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. [ ] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. [ ]
- 9. Reactivate File No. [ ]
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on [ ]

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

**Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.**

Sponsor(s):

Supervisor Peskin

Subject:

[Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day – April 24, 2021]

The text is listed:

Resolution designating April 24, 2021 as "Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day" in the City and County of San Francisco, and urging President Joseph Biden to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide and the San Francisco Board of Education to reaffirm its commitment to teaching the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide in our public schools.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: [ ]

For Clerk's Use Only