

File No. 190428

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 30

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: _____
Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: _____
Date: April 23, 2019

Cmte Board

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- Form 126 – Ethics Commission
- Award Letter
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OTHER

- House Resolution 296 - 04/08/19
- Senate Resolution 150 - 04/09/19
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Prepared by: Lisa Lew
Prepared by: _____

Date: April 19, 2019
Date: _____

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2019 - Urging Passage of United States
2 House Resolution No. 296 and Senate Resolution No. 150]

3 **Resolution declaring April 24, 2019, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the**
4 **City and County of San Francisco; and urging the San Francisco's representatives in**
5 **the United States House of Representatives and Senate to accord recognition through**
6 **the passage of House Resolution No. 296 and Senate Resolution No. 150.**

7
8 WHEREAS, The Armenian people, living in their historic homeland of 4,000 years,
9 were subjected to severe persecution by the Turkish government of the Ottoman Empire
10 before and after the turn of the twentieth century, including widespread massacres, usurpation
11 of land and property, and destruction of cultural institutions and monuments during the period
12 from 1894 to 1896 and again in 1909; and

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

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

20 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of President Woodrow
21 Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East Relief Organization, the first
22 Congressionally-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to aid the
23 Armenian people and other Christian minorities, was founded and provided unprecedented
24 relief, delivering more than \$117,000,000 of humanitarian assistance between 1915 and 1930,
25

1 and saving approximately one million refugees, including 130,000 orphans of the genocide;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide” in 1944, and who was
4 the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of
5 the Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the twentieth
6 century; and

7 WHEREAS, Those citizens of Turkey who speak the truth about the Armenian
8 Genocide – such as assassinated human rights activist and journalist Hrant Dink – continue to
9 be silenced by violent means and/or imprisonment, in part due to Turkish law which
10 criminalizes any expression which is considered to be critical of Turkish identity; and

11 WHEREAS, By honoring the survivors and consistently remembering and condemning
12 the repeated atrocities committed against the Armenian people, as well as the persecution of
13 the Assyrian and Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire, we guard against the repetition of
14 genocide; and

15 WHEREAS, California has become home to the largest and most active population of
16 Armenians in the United States, and those citizens have enriched our state through leadership
17 in the fields of academia, medicine, business, agriculture, government and the arts and are
18 proud and patriotic practitioners of American citizenship; and

19 WHEREAS, San Francisco Armenian-Americans are predominantly descendants of the
20 few remaining survivors of the Genocide; and

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its
22 commemoration of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate others
23 about the tragic loss of life, land, and human rights of the Armenian people and the crime of
24 genocide committed against them; now, therefore, be it
25

1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 hereby declares April 24, 2019 as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City and
3 County of San Francisco; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges San
5 Francisco's elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to
6 accord recognition of the Armenian Genocide through passage of House Resolution 296 and
7 Senate Resolution 150; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the San
9 Francisco Board of Education to reaffirm its commitment to teaching about the Armenian
10 Genocide in San Francisco Schools as indicated in the California State Board of Education's
11 History Social Sciences framework and standards; by communicating this intention to its high
12 school Social Studies and English Language Arts educators, and by offering appropriate
13 professional development training and instructional resources on the subject to social studies
14 and English language arts educators; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
16 Francisco directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to the Offices of
17 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, United States House of
18 Representative Jackie Speier, United States Senator Kamala Harris, United States Senator
19 Dianne Feinstein, and San Francisco Board of Education, respectively, upon passage.
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116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 296

Affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BEYER, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CORREA, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MENG, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SPANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. COX of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. SIREs, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. SHALALA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Affirming the United States record on the Armenian
Genocide.

Whereas the United States has a proud history of recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide, the killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, and providing relief to the survivors of the campaign of genocide against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians;

Whereas the Honorable Henry Morgenthau, United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to 1916, organized and led protests by officials of many countries against what he described as the empire's "campaign of race extermination", and was instructed on July 16, 1915, by United States Secretary of State Robert Lansing that the "Department approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian persecution";

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the formation of the Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, which raised \$116,000,000 (over \$2,500,000,000 in 2019 dollars) between 1915 and 1930, and the Senate adopted resolutions condemning these massacres;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term "genocide" in 1944, and who was the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20th century;

Whereas, as displayed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Adolf Hitler, on ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by saying "[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?", setting the stage for the Holocaust;

Whereas the United States has officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, through the United States Government's May 28, 1951, written statement to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President Ronald Reagan's Proclamation No. 4838 on April 22, 1981, and by House Joint Resolution 148, adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247, adopted on September 10, 1984; and

Whereas the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-441) establishes that atrocities prevention represents a United States national interest, and affirms that it is the policy of the United States to pursue a United States Government-wide strategy to identify, prevent, and respond to the risk of atrocities by "strengthening diplomatic response and the effective use of foreign assistance to support appropriate transitional justice measures, including criminal accountability, for past atrocities": Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
 2 resentatives that it is the policy of the United States to—
- 3 (1) commemorate the Armenian Genocide
 4 through official recognition and remembrance;
- 5 (2) reject efforts to enlist, engage, or otherwise
 6 associate the United States Government with denial
 7 of the Armenian Genocide or any other genocide;
 8 and
- 9 (3) encourage education and public under-
 10 standing of the facts of the Armenian Genocide, in-

- 1 cluding the United States role in the humanitarian
- 2 relief effort, and the relevance of the Armenian
- 3 Genocide to modern-day crimes against humanity.

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116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 150

Expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 9, 2019

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that it is the policy of the United States to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

Whereas the United States has a proud history of recognizing and condemning the Armenian Genocide, the killing of an estimated 1,500,000 Armenians by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, and providing relief to the survivors of the campaign of genocide against Armenians, Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Syrians, Arameans, Maronites, and other Christians;

Whereas the Honorable Henry Morgenthau, Sr., United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913 to

1916, organized and led protests by officials of many countries against what he described as “a campaign of race extermination,” and, on July 16, 1915, was instructed by United States Secretary of State Robert Lansing that the “Department approves your procedure . . . to stop Armenian persecution”;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the formation of Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, which raised approximately \$116,000,000 (more than \$2,500,000,000 in 2019 dollars) between 1915 and 1930, and the Senate adopted resolutions condemning the massacres;

Whereas Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide” in 1944 and who was the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the 20th century;

Whereas, as displayed in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Adolf Hitler, on ordering his military commanders to attack Poland without provocation in 1939, dismissed objections by saying, “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”, setting the stage for the Holocaust;

Whereas the United States has officially recognized the Armenian Genocide—

(1) through the May 28, 1951, written statement of the United States Government to the International Court of Justice regarding the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and Proclamation No. 4838 issued by President Ronald Reagan on April 22, 1981; and

(2) by House Joint Resolution 148, 94th Congress, agreed to April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247, 98th Congress, agreed to September 10, 1984; and

Whereas the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–441) establishes that the prevention of atrocities is a national interest of the United States and affirms that it is the policy of the United States to pursue a United States Government-wide strategy to identify, prevent, and respond to the risk of atrocities by “strengthening diplomatic response and the effective use of foreign assistance to support appropriate transitional justice measures, including criminal accountability, for past atrocities”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that it
2 is the policy of the United States—

3 (1) to commemorate the Armenian Genocide
4 through official recognition and remembrance;

5 (2) to reject efforts to enlist, engage, or other-
6 wise associate the United States Government with
7 denial of the Armenian Genocide or any other geno-
8 cide; and

9 (3) to encourage education and public under-
10 standing of the facts of the Armenian Genocide, in-
11 cluding the role of the United States in humani-
12 tarian relief efforts, and the relevance of the Arme-
13 nian Genocide to modern-day crimes against human-
14 ity.

○

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2019 APR 16 PM 4:10
Time stamp
or meeting date

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

BY _____

- 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 Aaron Peskin

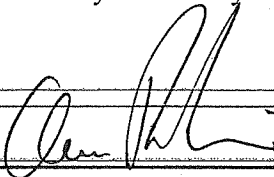
Subject:

Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day

The text is listed:

Resolution declaring April 24, 2019 as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:



For Clerk's Use Only