

1 [Armenian Independence Day - September 21, 2023]

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3 **Resolution declaring September 21, 2023, as Armenian Independence Day in the City**
4 **and County of San Francisco and commemorating the 32nd Anniversary of Armenian**
5 **Independence Day on September 21, 2023.**

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7 WHEREAS, In 1920, the Red Army invaded the country of Armenia to establish power
8 and marked a 70-year period of oppressive rule by the Soviet Union over the Armenian
9 people; and

10 WHEREAS, There was growing opposition against Soviet rule in the late 1980s among
11 Armenians; and

12 WHEREAS, Upon the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Supreme Council of Armenia
13 abolished Soviet rule and established the Republic of Armenia on August 23, 1990; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR),
15 many Armenians continued to be fearful of attempts of another takeover; and

16 WHEREAS, On September 21, 1990, a referendum was passed with over 90% voting
17 in favor decreed that the Republic of Armenia be declared an independent country free of
18 Soviet rule; and

19 WHEREAS, Armenia became the first non-Baltic republic to secede from the USSR;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Levon Ter-Petrosyan was elected the first President of the Republic of
22 Armenia on October 16, 1991; and

23 WHEREAS, Armenian Independence Day has significant cultural meaning to in
24 Armenia and Armenians across the diaspora; and

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1 WHEREAS, Armenian Independence Day represents the struggle for a free country
2 and a free people after decades under the oppressive governance of a foreign country; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States of America officially recognized Armenian
4 Independence on December 25, 1991; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State continues to recognize Armenian
6 Independence Day on September 21st; and

7 WHEREAS, This year, Armenia will celebrate their 32nd anniversary of independence
8 from the Soviet Union; and

9 WHEREAS, Armenia and Artsakh continue to face a threat to their security and
10 survival, with Azerbaijan illegally occupying significant portions of Armenia’s sovereign
11 territory and enforcing an illegal humanitarian blockade against Artsakh’s indigenous
12 Armenian population; and

13 WHEREAS, The consequences of Azerbaijan’s aggression against the Armenian
14 people has been felt across the diaspora through targeted attacks on Armenian American
15 community institutions in San Francisco; and

16 WHEREAS, Many Armenian Americans in the San Francisco Bay Area are direct
17 descendants of survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, the legacy of which continues to
18 reverberate in the ongoing threats faced by the Armenian people in their ancestral lands; and

19 WHEREAS, The Armenian American community of the San Francisco Bay Area has
20 left an indelible impact on the cultural, economic, political, and social fabric of Northern
21 California; and

22 WHEREAS, San Francisco values all people from diverse ranges of backgrounds and
23 experiences seeking a brighter tomorrow; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors proclaims September 21,
2 2023, as Armenian Independence Day and commemorates the 32nd anniversary of Armenian
3 Independence on September 21, 2023; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, The City and County of San Francisco on the anniversary of
5 Armenia’s Independence reaffirms its support for the security and sovereignty of Armenia and
6 Artsakh in the face of Azerbaijan aggression; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes the
8 importance of celebrating Armenian Independence Day and reaffirms its support and solidarity
9 with the Armenian community in the wake of Azerbaijan's blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh;
10 and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco reiterates its
12 condemnation of Azerbaijan’s blockade of Artsakh and urges immediate action be taken to
13 hold Azerbaijan accountable for its attempted ethnic cleansing of Artsakh’s indigenous
14 Armenian population; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports efforts
16 to deepen ties between the City and County of San Francisco and Armenia through exploring
17 the establishment of sister city relationships.

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