

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2018]

2

3 **Resolution declaring April 24, 2018, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the**
4 **City and County of San Francisco.**

5

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

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

14 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and implemented the atrocities
15 committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923, resulting in the deaths of
16 1.5 million Armenian women, men and children; and

17 WHEREAS, In response to the genocide and at the behest of President Woodrow
18 Wilson and the U.S. State Department, the Near East Relief Organization, the first
19 Congressionally-sanctioned American philanthropic effort created exclusively to aid the
20 Armenian people and other Christian minorities, was founded and provided unprecedented
21 relief, delivering more than \$117,000,000 of humanitarian assistance between 1915 and 1930,
22 and saving approximately one million refugees, including 130,000 orphans of the genocide;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term “genocide” in 1944, and who was
25 the earliest proponent of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of

1 the Genocide, invoked the Armenian case as a definitive example of genocide in the twentieth
2 century; and

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

7 WHEREAS, 2018 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocidal pogroms against
8 Armenians in the cities of Sumgait and Baku, Azerbaijan, following a peaceful demand by the
9 Armenian autonomous republic of Nagorno Karabagh to reunite with the Republic of Armenia;
10 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

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1 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
2 hereby declares April 24, 2018, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City and
3 County of San Francisco.

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 220; and

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