

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2014]

2
3 **Resolution declaring April 24, 2014, 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 3,000 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,
9 usurpation of land and property, and destruction of cultural institutions and monuments during
10 the period from 1894 to 1896, again in 1909; and

11 WHEREAS, The horrible experience of the Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman
12 Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians as the first systematic
13 genocide of the twentieth century; and

14 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide began with the arrest, exile, and murder of
15 hundreds of Armenian intellectuals and political, religious, and business leaders, starting on
16 April 24, 1915; and

17 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and executed the unspeakable
18 atrocities committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923; and

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

23 WHEREAS, By honoring the survivors and consistently remembering and condemning
24 the atrocities committed against the Armenian people as well as the persecution of the
25

1 Assyrian and Greek populations of the Ottoman Empire, we guard against repetition of the
2 crime of genocide; and

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

7 WHEREAS, San Francisco Armenian- Americans are predominantly descendants of
8 the few remaining Armenian Genocide victims; and

9 WHEREAS, Those Armenian Genocide survivors who arrived in San Francisco and
10 reestablished themselves, built a thriving community that has created churches, civic and
11 charitable organizations, and a school, and have become an integral part of the dynamic
12 culture of San Francisco; and

13 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area lost its last remaining Armenian Genocide
14 survivor, 99 year old Takouhie Keshishian, who passed away on March 4th, 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its
16 commemoration of the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate
17 others about the tragic loss of life, land and human rights of the Armenian people and the
18 crime of genocide committed against them; and now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
20 does hereby declare April 24, 2014, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City
21 and County of San Francisco.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 140346

Date Passed: April 15, 2014

Resolution declaring April 24, 2014, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

April 15, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 140346

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/15/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Insigned

Mayor

4/25/14

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board