

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

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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.**

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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, The California Department of Education includes the Armenian Genocide
7 in its History-Social Science Contents Standards and framework, including resources for
8 teachers to facilitate thoughtful classroom discussions; and

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

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

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

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

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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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