

File No. 180369

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 57

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: April 17, 2018

Cmte Board

- Motion
- Resolution
- Ordinance
- Legislative Digest
- Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
- Youth Commission Report
- Introduction Form
- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
- MOU
- Grant Information Form
- Grant Budget
- Subcontract Budget
- Contract/Agreement
- Form 126 – Ethics Commission
- Award Letter
- Application
- Public Correspondence

OTHER

- House of Resolution 220 March 22, 2017
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
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- _____
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- _____

Prepared by: Jocelyn Wong

Date: April 12, 2018

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

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
25

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.

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115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 220

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding past
genocides, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2017

Mr. TROTT (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PAL-
LONE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BILIRAKIS,
Mr. SARBANES, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CLARK of
Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr.
COSTA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives
regarding past genocides, and for other purposes.

Whereas the lessons of past genocides should be applied to
help prevent future war crimes, crimes against humanity,
and genocide;

Whereas, on March 17, 2016, the Department of State de-
clared that “Da’esh is responsible for genocide against
groups in areas under its control, including Yezidis,
Christians, and Shia Muslims”, and is “also responsible
for crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing directed
at these same groups and in some cases against Sunni
Muslims and Kurds and other minorities”;

Whereas the House of Representatives, on March 14, 2016, passed H. Con. Res. 75, which concluded that “the atrocities perpetrated by ISIL against Christians, Yezidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide”;

Whereas the Senate, on July 7, 2016, passed S. Res. 340, which concluded that “the atrocities perpetrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) against Christians, Yezidis, Shi’a, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide”;

Whereas the United States has a proud record of protesting and providing relief to Armenian and other Christian survivors of the Ottoman Empire’s genocidal campaign;

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 2017 dollars) between 1915 and 1930, the Senate adopted resolutions condemning these massacres, and United States diplomats organized and led protests of these crimes;

Whereas the United States is on record as having officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, in 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 April 22, 1981, Proclamation No. 4838, and by House Joint Resolution 148, adopted on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247, adopted on September 10, 1984; and

Whereas the proper commemoration and consistent condemnation of the Armenian Genocide will strengthen our international standing in preventing modern day genocides: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the United States, in seeking to prevent
3 war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide
4 against Christians, Yezidis, Muslims, Kurds, and other
5 vulnerable religious and ethnic groups in the Middle East,
6 should draw upon relevant lessons of the United States
7 Government, civil society, and humanitarian response to
8 the Armenian Genocide, Seyfo, and the broader genocidal
9 campaign by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians, As-
10 syrians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, Greeks, Pontians and other
11 Christians upon their biblical era homelands.

○

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2018 APR 10 PM 2:24

Time stamp

or meeting date AK

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

- 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. Question(s) 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:

[Resolution Declaring April 24, 2018 as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day]

The text is listed:

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

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: [Signature]

For Clerk's Use Only