

File No. 240377

Committee Item No. _____

Board Item No. 34

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Committee: _____

Date: _____

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date: April 23, 2024

Cmte Board

- Motion
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- Form 126 – Ethics Commission
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OTHER

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Prepared by: Lisa Lew

Date: April 19, 2024

Prepared by: _____

Date: _____

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 23, 2024]

2
3 **Resolution designating April 23, 2024, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day”**
4 **in the City and County of San Francisco, marking the 109th anniversary of the**
5 **Armenian Genocide and the 27th anniversary of the preservation of the Mount**
6 **Davidson Cross by the Council of Armenian American Organizations of Northern**
7 **California; and urging members of Congress to support the bipartisan Armenian**
8 **Genocide Education Act.**

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

15 WHEREAS, The unspeakable horrors experienced by the Armenian people at the
16 hands of the Ottoman Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians
17 as the first modern-era genocide; and

18 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and implemented the genocide
19 committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923, resulting in the murder of
20 1.5 million Armenian women, men and children, and the expropriation or destruction of all
21 their personal and community properties; and

22 WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 296
23 (Schiff) on October 29, 2019, which states it is U.S. policy to commemorate the Armenian
24 Genocide and the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 150 (Menendez) on December
25 12, 2019, which formally recognizes and affirms the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide

1 on behalf of the U.S. government and calls for broader education on this heinous crime and its
2 impact on generations of Armenians; and

3 WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, President Joseph Biden became the 1st U.S. President
4 to formally recognize the massacres of Armenians as Genocide; and

5 WHEREAS, On September 17, 2022, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi led a
6 congressional delegation to Armenia in a show of “the strong and ongoing support of the
7 United States” for Armenia and for a lasting settlement amid the conflict between the countries
8 of Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, and visited the
9 Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, Armenia’s capital, where a signed copy of
10 the Resolution urging President Joe Biden to recognize the Armenian Genocide, on file in
11 Board of Supervisors File No. 210399 – [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24,
12 2021], is on permanent display in both English and Armenian; and

13 WHEREAS, California has become home to the largest and most active population of
14 Armenians in the United States, who have enriched our state through leadership in the fields
15 of academia, medicine, business, agriculture, government, and the arts and are proud and
16 patriotic practitioners of American citizenship, including author William Saroyan, America’s
17 favorite chef and philanthropist George Mardikian, and Bay Area Congressional
18 Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo; and

19 WHEREAS, Access to education about the Armenian Genocide is critical to preventing
20 future atrocities and even preventing hate crimes, which have increased in recent years, with
21 three separate hate crimes documented over two months in San Francisco in 2020, including
22 the damaging fire at the St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Laurel Heights, and most
23 recently a devastating arson fire at Fresno’s Armenian cemetery, a week before the 109th
24 anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and

25

1 WHEREAS, The Armenian Genocide Education Act was introduced in Congress on
2 April 24, 2023, by the only Armenian-Assyrian Member of Congress, Representative Anna G.
3 Eshoo, establishing a new program in the Library of Congress tasked with developing
4 resources, including digital resources, to foster understanding about why and how the
5 Armenian Genocide happened, and authorizes \$2 million annually for the program over five
6 years and allows the Library of Congress to supplement this funding with private donations;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
9 hereby designates April 23, 2024, as “Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day” in the City
10 and County of San Francisco, marking the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and
11 the 27th anniversary of the preservation of the Mount Davidson Cross by the Council of
12 Armenian American Organizations of Northern California; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges members of Congress to
14 support the bipartisan Armenian Genocide Education Act; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
16 to transmit copies of this Resolution to the San Francisco Board of Education and the City
17 Lobbyist, respectively, upon final passage.

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Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)



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

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes No

(Note: For Imperative Agenda items (a Resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Agenda Form.)

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

Long Title or text listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: