

As Amended in Board 4/8/03

FILE NO. 030532

RESOLUTION NO.

1 [Proper recognition of the Armenian Genocide.]

2
3 **Resolution calling upon Congressman Tom Lantos to reflect the will of the people and**
4 **elected representatives of San Francisco by supporting and advocating for proper**
5 **recognition of the Armenian Genocide.**

6 WHEREAS, in 1915 the Ottoman Turkish Government initiated a Genocidal campaign
7 against Armenians; and

8 WHEREAS, 1.5 million Armenians were killed as a result of this Genocide; and

9 WHEREAS, to this day, this historical fact is denied by the current Turkish government;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the denial of this genocide set a precedent and contributed to the
12 perpetration of later genocides throughout the 20th Century, including the Jewish Holocaust,
13 during which Adolf Hitler was quoted in August, 1939 as having asked “Who today
14 remembers the annihilation of the Armenians?;” and

15 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution on March
16 18, 2003, declaring April 24, 2003 as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day, and
17 approved that a letter be sent to President George W. Bush, urging him to provide just
18 recognition to the Armenian Genocide; and

19 WHEREAS, Congressman Tom Lantos has represented the City and County of San
20 Francisco in the United States House of Representatives with distinction, and currently serves
21 as Co-Chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and as the Ranking Democrat in
22 the House International Relations Committee; and

23 WHEREAS, Congressman Lantos during the early part his career, as reflected in his
24 comments on April 21, 1983 in the Congressional Record, recognized the importance of
25 recognition of the Armenian Genocide; and

1 WHEREAS, in recent years, most notably in September and October of 2000,
2 Congressman Lantos ~~attempted~~ opposed to derail the adoption of a H.R. 596, which sought
3 to recognize the Armenian Genocide, justifying his position on his fear that the proper
4 recognition of the murder of 1.5 million Armenians could harm U.S.-Turkish relations; and

5 WHEREAS, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors maintains that the proper
6 recognition of the crime of Genocide and other crimes against humanity should never be
7 sacrificed for perceived political benefits; and

8 WHEREAS, by joining our voices against the deniers of the Armenian holocaust, we
9 are able to guard against the occurrence of such genocide in the future;

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors call
11 upon Congressman Tom Lantos to advocate for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by
12 the United States Congress, State Department and White House; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors call upon
14 Congressman Lantos to join this Board and many of his colleagues in the U.S. House of
15 Representatives in urging President Bush to give just recognition to the Armenian Genocide
16 and to fully support a House resolution which will be introduced by Reps. Schiff (CA-29) and
17 Radanovich (CA-20).