

1 [Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day - April 24, 2023]

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3 **Resolution marking the 108th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and declaring**
4 **April 24, 2023, as "Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day" in the City and County of**
5 **San Francisco.**

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

12 WHEREAS, The unspeakable horrors experienced by the Armenian people at the
13 hands of the Ottoman Turkish government culminated in 1915 in what is known by historians
14 as the first modern-era Genocide; and

15 WHEREAS, The Ottoman Turkish authorities planned and implemented the Genocide
16 committed against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923, resulting in the murder of
17 1.5 million Armenian women, men and children, and the expropriation or destruction of all
18 their personal and community properties; and

19 WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 296
20 (Schiff) on October 29, 2019, which states it is U.S. policy to commemorate the Armenian
21 Genocide and the US Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 150 (Menendez) on December
22 12, 2019, which formally recognizes and affirms the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide
23 on behalf of the U.S. government and calls for broader education on this heinous crime and its
24 impact on generations of Armenians; and

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

3 WHEREAS, Despite the unequivocal acknowledgement of this crime as Genocide,
4 Turkey and Azerbaijan continue to deny that Genocide took place; and

5 WHEREAS, The legacy of the Armenian Genocide and the consequences of its denial
6 are seen to this day in the ongoing policy of violence and discrimination Armenians face at the
7 hands of the governments of Turkey and Azerbaijan; and

8 WHEREAS, This policy of aggression culminated in the assault on Artsakh, also known
9 as Nagorno-Karabakh, by Azerbaijan with Turkey's support in 2020, which has seen the
10 ongoing destruction of Armenian cultural heritage, the deliberate targeting of civilian
11 infrastructure, and the ongoing detention and torture of Armenian prisoners of war; and

12 WHEREAS, On February 7, 2023, The Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No.
13 052-23, condemning Azerbaijan's Blockade of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh)
14 and ongoing human rights violations, which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution
15 as if set forth fully herein; and

16 WHEREAS, In the wake of the war, Azerbaijani and Turkish leaders publicly praised
17 the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide, and proliferated rhetoric aimed at dehumanizing
18 the Armenian people; and

19 WHEREAS, The Government of Azerbaijan has occupied Armenia's internationally
20 recognized territories since September 2022; and

21 WHEREAS, Since December 12, 2022, the Government of Azerbaijan has blockaded
22 the Lachin Corridor, blocking access to Nagorno-Karabakh; and

23 WHEREAS, The Azerbaijani blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh has cut off 120,000
24 Armenians from food, medicine, fuel, and other vital supplies, raising fear of renewed conflict
25 and ethnic cleansing; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby designates April 24,
2 2023, as "Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day" in the City and County of San Francisco,
3 marking the 108th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors indicates its
5 support for public education of the Armenian Genocide so as to ensure the lessons of history
6 are not forgotten; and, be it

7 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors expresses its
8 condemnation of Genocide denial in all its forms, noting that the prevention of atrocities must
9 begin with holding perpetrators to account; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its
11 support for the Armenians of Artsakh and reaffirms its support for efforts to hold Azerbaijan
12 accountable for its ongoing blockade of the region.