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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 296 (Schiff) on October 29, 2019, which states it is U.S. policy to commemorate the Armenian Genocide and the US Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 150 (Menendez) on December 12, 2019, which formally recognizes and affirms the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide on behalf of the U.S. government and calls for broader education on this heinous crime and its impact on generations of Armenians; and
WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, President Joseph Biden became the first U.S. President to formally recognize the massacres of Armenians as Genocide; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Azerbaijani blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh has cut off 120,000 Armenians from food, medicine, fuel, and other vital supplies, raising fear of renewed conflict and ethnic cleansing; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby designates April 24, 2023, as "Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day" in the City and County of San Francisco, marking the 108th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and, be it

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

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors reaffirms its support for the Armenians of Artsakh and reaffirms its support for efforts to hold Azerbaijan accountable for its ongoing blockade of the region.
Resolution marking the 108th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and declaring April 24, 2023, as "Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day" in the City and County of San Francisco.

April 25, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/25/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board