

PROCLAMATION

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Designating April 24, 2021 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in San Mateo County

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WHEREAS, San Mateo County is home to a significant Armenian American population, with leaders in every aspect of civic life including business, government and community service organizations, and our Armenia-American neighbors are part of the fabric of San Mateo County life; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the Ottoman Empire subjected the Armenian people to severe persecution and brutal injustice before and after the turn of the twentieth century, and the horrific experience of the Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government culminated, starting in 1915, in the Armenian Genocide, which historians recognize the first modern-era genocide; and

WHEREAS, between 1915 and 1923, Turkish authorities planned and executed unspeakable atrocities against the Armenian people, including torture, starvation, sexual abuse, forced labor, burnings, and death marches in the Syrian desert, resulting in the murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, as well as the forced exile of more than 500,000 innocent people and the expropriation of their lands and community properties, institutions, and personal belongings; and

WHEREAS, the American people contributed substantially to the survival of those who escaped the Armenian Genocide, through the humanitarian efforts of the Near East Relief Foundation, established by U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, which raised approximately 2 billion dollars, in today's currency, and which saved approximately one million Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian refugees, including 132,000 orphans of the genocide; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Turkey continues to deny the occurrence of these well-documented and widely-recognized crimes against humanity, and refuses to provide reparations, while actively continuing to remove vestiges of Armenians' existence in their historic homeland, including by destroying landmarks of Armenian cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the devastating 44-day attack on the ethnically-Armenian region of Artsakh (also known as Nagorno-Karabagh), beginning on September 27, 2020, by Azerbaijan with the military and political support of Turkey, was largely the result of the denial of the Armenian Genocide by both Turkey and Azerbaijan; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide is of such historical significance that the California Department of Education includes the subject in the State's social studies education standards and provides curriculum and professional development training on this critical component of World History and genocide studies; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has acknowledged and condemned the Armenian Genocide, as demonstrated, for example, by the passage by the House of Representatives of a resolution affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide (H.Res 296) and a resolution of the United States Senate expressing that it is the policy of the United States to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance (S.Res.150)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby designates April 24th, 2021, as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in San Mateo County and that the County of San Mateo is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its remembrance of the 106th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and in its efforts to educate others about the extensive, damaging legacy of genocide and its denial.

Dated: April 20, 2021

SUPERVISORS:

DAVID J. CANEPA, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

CAROLE GROOM

DON HORSLEY

WARREN SLOCUM

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors