

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
HILDA L. SOLIS

April 9, 2024

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County is home to the greatest number of Armenians outside of Armenia. Each year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors commemorates the Armenian Genocide, which began on April 24, 1915 and resulted in the tragic loss of 1.5 million innocent lives. Despite overwhelming evidence, the Turkish government still denies the occurrence of an Armenian Genocide. Many international and American leaders and elected officials from local, state, and federal governments have condemned the atrocities committed against the Armenians and are calling on Turkey to acknowledge the Genocide and its participation in it.

Tragically, the ethnic cleansing perpetrated against the Armenian people was revived in recent years. In 2020, Azerbaijan launched a military assault in Artsakh, which was followed by a ten-month long blockade of the Lachin Corridor, cutting off over 120,000 Armenians from food, medicine, and critical supplies. In September 2023, over 100,000 Armenians were forcibly displaced from their homes and many political leaders were taken hostage. This Board has called on the Federal Government numerous times to impose sanctions against Azerbaijan for their continued attacks in the region and to demand the immediate release of Armenian hostages held captive by the Azerbaijani government.

Each year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors proudly recognizes community members, religious leaders, elected officials, and organizations at a Tuesday Board meeting to solemnly honor the memory of those who lost their lives because of the Armenian Genocide. To honor the memories of those who suffered and lost their lives, it is appropriate for this Board to take similar action now.

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MOTION

SOLIS _____

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BARGER _____

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In 2021, the Board unanimously adopted our motion urging President Joe Biden to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide and on April 24, 2021, President Joe Biden officially recognized the Armenian Genocide. That was a huge victory for the diaspora and the result of decades of tireless efforts to have the highest level of our government call this genocide by its name. It is crucial that we never forget the atrocities committed during the Armenian Genocide, as well as the more recent ethnic cleansing perpetrated against Armenians who had been peacefully living in Artsakh in their ancestral lands, honor the victims, and reaffirm our commitment to preventing genocide and promoting human rights.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Recognize April 24, 2024 as “Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day” in Los Angeles County, and
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to work with all County departments to promote events and educational materials related to the Armenian Genocide and utilize department websites and social media platforms to share information and generate awareness.

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KB: nvc