AGN. NO.____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND
JANICE HAHN

April 9, 2024

PROCLAIMING APRIL AS ARMENIAN HISTORY MONTH

Los Angeles County is home to the greatest number of Armenians outside of Armenia. April holds significant historical importance for Armenians, marking the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a tragedy that resulted in the loss of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire in 1915, and serves as a reminder of the importance of preventing genocide and promoting human rights. Each year, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) commemorates the Armenian Genocide that began on April 24, 1915. Since 2017, this Board has also declared the month of April as Armenian History Month acknowledging the enduring legacy and remarkable contributions of this resilient community.

The Board has also passed several motions related to the attacks by the Azerbaijani government against the Nagorno-Karabakh region, also known as Artsakh. 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 multiple 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.

The Armenian people have exhibited unparalleled resilience in the face of adversity throughout history, despite multiple attempts to eradicate them as a people. Let us look to the Armenian community as a testament to perseverance and what can be accomplished when a people are united. It is crucial to honor the rich cultural heritage, contributions, and acknowledge their enduring struggles. It is with great honor that we declare the month of April as Armenian History Month and to recognize the resilience, contributions, and struggles of the Armenian people.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of April as Armenian History Month.

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KB: nvc

MOTION

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