

WHEREAS, one and one-half million men, women, and children of Armenian descent were victims of the brutal genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, inclusive;

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide and massacre of the Armenian people have been recognized as an attempt to eliminate all traces of a thriving and noble civilization over 3,000 years old;

WHEREAS, to this day, revisionists still inexplicably deny the existence of these horrific events;

WHEREAS, by consistently remembering and openly condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, Santa Clara County residents demonstrate their sensitivity to a need for constant vigilance to prevent similar atrocities in the future;

WHEREAS, recognition of the anniversary of this genocide is crucial to preventing the repetition of future genocides and educating people about the atrocities connected to these tragic events;

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H. Res 296 by a vote of 405-11, affirming that it is the official policy of the United States to commemorate and recognize the Armenian Genocide, reject association of the U.S. Government with all forms of its denial, and to promote public education of the Armenian Genocide;

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2021 President Biden became the first U.S. president to officially recognize the mass killing and deportation as genocide;

WHEREAS, on this 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, it is also appropriate to remember, honor, and thank those righteous ethnic Turks and Kurds who, often at risk to their own lives, lent aid, comfort, and assistance to ethnic Armenians seeking to escape the genocide;

WHEREAS, Armenia is now a free and independent republic, having embraced democracy following the dissolution of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County is home to a significant population of Armenian-Americans, and those citizens have enriched our region through leadership in business, agriculture, academia, medicine, government, and the arts, and they are proud and patriotic practitioners of American citizenship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby proclaim April 24, 2024 as

The 109th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 - 1923

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara, State of California on this Fifteenth Day of April, Two Thousand and Twenty-four by unanimous vote.

Susan Ellenberg
President, Board of Supervisors

Sylvia Arenas
Supervisor, District One

Cindy Chavez
Supervisor, District Two

Otto Lee
Supervisor, District Three

Approved as to form and legality:

S. Joseph Simitian
Supervisor, District Five

Attest: Curtis Boone
Acting Clerk, Board of Supervisors

Michael LoPresti
Tony LoPresti
County Counsel