

RESOLUTION NO. 7790

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, CALIFORNIA, COMMEMORATING THE 101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

WHEREAS, the Armenian people, living in their 3,000-year historic homeland in eastern Asia Minor and throughout the Ottoman Empire, were subjected to severe persecution and brutal injustice by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire before and after the turn of the Twentieth Century, including widespread massacres, usurpation of land and property, and acts of wanton destruction during the period from 1894 to 1896, inclusive, and again in 1909; and

WHEREAS, the horrible experience of the Armenians at the hands of their oppressors culminated in the Armenian Genocide, beginning in 1915, in what is known by historians as the "First Genocide of the Twentieth Century," and as the prototype of modern day mass killing; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide commenced on April 24, 1915 with the arrest, exile, and murder of hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, and business, political, and religious leaders, and thereafter rapidly spread throughout Anatolia; and

WHEREAS, the regime then in control of the Ottoman Empire, known as the "Young Turks," planned and executed the unspeakable atrocities committed against the Armenian people from 1915 to 1923, inclusive, which included the torture, starvation, and murder of 1,500,000 Armenians, death marches into the Syrian Desert, the forced exile of more than 500,000 innocent people, and the loss of the traditional Armenian homelands; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide is documented with overwhelming proof in the national archives of the United States, Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Russia, Turkey, the Vatican and many other countries; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles area is the home of one of the largest population of survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their descendants in the world outside of Armenia, and those residents reasonably demand justice and appropriate recognition of the crimes committed against the Armenian people; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the Government of the United States properly reaffirm the Armenian Genocide, not just because of the moral implications, but because such recognition can help to prevent future atrocities from occurring;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, FIND, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The representations set forth in the Recitals above, are true and correct.

SECTION 2: That by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of San Fernando calls upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide, and URGES the Republic of Turkey to end its decades-long campaign of Genocide denial.

SECTION 3: That by the adoption of this Resolution the Council of the City of San Fernando hereby declares April 24, 2017 as a Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 17th day of April, 2017.

Sylvia Ballin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elena G. Chávez, City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 17th day of April 2017, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Elena G. Chávez, City Clerk