



Dee Andrews
City of Long Beach
Councilmember, Sixth District

Date: April 17, 2012
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Dee Andrews, Sixth District *DA*
Subject: Resolution to Recognize April as Genocide Awareness Month

RECOMMENDATION:

Request City Council to Adopt a Resolution to Recognize April as Genocide Awareness Month.

DISCUSSION:

Genocide, the crime of barbarity, has played a cruel part of our human existence far too long. Instead of man-kind pledging the "never again" that we wish for, the history of our world is "again and again". This is a crime committed by human will and is best prevented by awareness of citizens, civic engagement, and the intervention of other countries.

The month of April reflects the power of awareness due to the number of genocides that has occurred during this month. As we raise awareness to these horrific crimes let us give hope that something can be done to prevent it.

The past crimes of barbarity for the month of April include:

- The Armenian Genocide, April 24, 1915, known as the Armenian Holocaust was the systematic killing of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire during and just after World War I. The total number of resulting Armenian deaths is generally held to have been between 1 million and 1.5 million. *1
- The Holocaust in April 1933, the Nazis issued a decree paving the way for the "final solution," the annihilation of 6 million Jews of Europe and millions of others that were deemed non-Arian such as Russians, homosexuals, and Catholics. *2
- The Cambodian Genocide, April 17, 1975, the Cambodian Communists or Khmer Rouge started its four year reign of terror and indiscriminate executions that ended with the Killing Fields of over two of the seven million people of Cambodia.

*3

- Bosnian Genocide started in April 5, 1992, Serbia set out to “ethnically cleanse” Bosnian territory by systematically removing all Bosnian Muslims. The ethnic cleansing campaign killed more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslims as well as the mass expulsion of another 25,000–30,000 Bosnian. *4
- The Rwandan Genocide, April 6, 1994 was the mass murder of an estimated 800,000 people in the small East African nation of Rwanda. Over the course of approximately 100 days over 500,000 people were killed, according to a Human Rights Watch estimate. Estimates of the death toll have ranged between 500,000 and 1,000,000, or as much as 20% of the country's total population. *5
- Genocide in Sudan, April 2003, innocent civilians in Sudan’s Darfur region were attacked, thus started a killing spree of over 400,000 people and 2.5 million have been displaced in a genocide that continues today. *6

The scars of genocide are borne by the survivors and the families of victims living in Long Beach, as well as throughout the world. We ask that the City of Long Beach, via the approval of the City Council, pay tribute in honor of humanity those who suffered unimaginable tragedy, as well as to remind ourselves that future atrocity can be prevented through awareness and action.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no significant cost for this item.

*1- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide

*2- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg_Laws

*3- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_Rouge_rule_of_Cambodia

*4- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bosnian_Genocide

*5- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwandan_Genocide

*6- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_in_Darfur

1 RESOLUTION NO.
2

3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
4 CITY OF LONG BEACH RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF
5 APRIL AS GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH
6

7 WHEREAS, on April 24, 1915, the Armenian Massacres involved the
8 systematic killing of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire during and just after
9 World War I. The total number of Armenians killed is generally believed to be as many as
10 one and a half million people; and

11 WHEREAS, in April of 1933, a Nazi Germany decree was created, which
12 paved the way for the annihilation of over six million European Jews and millions of
13 others that were deemed non-Arian such as Russians, homosexuals, and Catholics
14 during World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, on April 17, 1975, the Cambodian Communists regime or
16 Khmer Rouge started its four year reign of terror and indiscriminate executions at
17 numerous "Killing Fields" that resulted in the death of two million people in Cambodia;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, on April 5, 1992, the siege of Sarajevo propelled a campaign of
20 ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. Serbia set out to "ethnically cleanse" Bosnian territory by
21 systematically removing all Bosnian Muslims. The ethnic cleansing campaign killed more
22 than 8,000 Bosnian Muslims as well as the mass expulsion of another 25,000 - 30,000
23 Bosnians; and

24 WHEREAS, in April of 1994, the Rwandan Genocide began which claimed
25 the lives of more than 800,000 people. Over the course of 100 days, approximately
26 500,000 people were killed; and

27 WHEREAS, in April of 2003, civilians in Sudan's Darfur region were
28 attacked, thus starting a killing spree of over 400,000 people. Two and a half million

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1 people have been displaced in a genocide that continues today; and

2 WHEREAS, we, the people of Long Beach, pay tribute and honor in the
3 name of humanity to those who suffered unimaginable tragedy, as well as to remind
4 ourselves that future atrocities can be prevented through awareness and action;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Foster, Mayor of Long Beach, and the Long
6 Beach City Council, do hereby proclaim the Month of April as the Official Genocide
7 Awareness Month for the City of Long Beach:

8 Sec. 1. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by
9 the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

10 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City
11 Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 20__ by the
12 following vote:

13
14 Ayes: Councilmembers: _____
15 _____
16 _____
17 _____

18 Noes: Councilmembers: _____
19 _____

20 Absent: Councilmembers: _____
21 _____

22
23
24 _____
City Clerk

25
26
27
28