



**R-22
REVISED**

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Lena Gonzalez, First District *LG*
Suja Lowenthal, Second District *SL*
Suzie Price, Third District *SP*

Subject: Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

April 21, 2015

RECOMMENDATION:

Respectfully request the Mayor and City Council join with cities, states and countries in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of a tragic period in our collective human rights history known as the Armenian Genocide.

Request the City Attorney draft a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide and its place in history.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, Governor Jerry Brown declared in a proclamation that, "between 1915 and 1923, Armenians were subjected to torture, starvation, mass murder and exile from their historic homeland... The Armenian Genocide, also known as the "First Genocide of the Twentieth Century," represented a deliberate attempt by the Ottoman Empire to eliminate all traces of a thriving, noble civilization." In fact, the State of California has commemorated this horrible atrocity nearly every year going back to Governor George Deukmejian in 1986. California is home to the largest Armenian-American population in the United States.

Recognized as the "Armenian Holocaust", the "Armenian Massacres" and, traditionally by Armenians as "Medz Yeghern" ("Great Crime"), the starting date is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, the day Ottoman Empire authorities rounded up and arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in its capital, Constantinople. Many of these prominent figures in the Armenian community were summarily executed in an Anatolian prison shortly thereafter. Over the course of 8 years, approximately 1.5 million Armenian people were subjected to deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation. The great bulk of the Armenian population was forcibly removed from Armenia and Anatolia to Syria, where the vast majority was sent into the desert to die of thirst and hunger. Large numbers of Armenians were methodically massacred throughout the Ottoman Empire. Women and children were abducted and horribly abused. (Armenian-Genocide.org). It is considered by many historians the prototype for the genocides and/or holocausts which followed in the 20th century.

Such heinous crimes against humanity have occurred throughout history and the world over. However, it is important that we acknowledge their occurrence and the underlying factors that lead to violence abroad and stateside. As pointed out in California Assembly Joint Resolution No. 35, "By consistently remembering and forcefully condemning the atrocities committed against the Armenians, and honoring the survivors as well as other victims of similar heinous conduct, we guard against repetition of such acts of genocide and provide the American public with a greater understanding of its heritage." (May 5, 2014)

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.



City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: April 17, 2015
To: Larry Herrera, City Clerk
From: Suja Lowenthal, District 2
Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of **April 21, 2015**

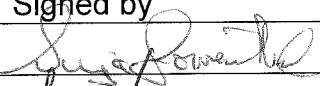


Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

Respectfully request the Mayor and City Council join with cities, states and countries in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of a tragic period in our collective human rights history known as the Armenian Genocide.

Request the City Attorney draft a resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide and its place in history.

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
2	Suja Lowenthal	
1	Lena Gonzalez	
7	Rodolfo Uranga	

Attachment: **Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide**

CC: Office of the Mayor