

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF 98TH ANNIVERSARY OF)
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND INDEPENDENCE
OF NAGOMO KARABAKH REPUBLIC)

RESOLUTION NO 13-119

WHEREAS, Nagorno Karabakh is a landlocked region in the South Caucasus and has historically been Armenian territory, populated by an overwhelming majority of Armenians, which was severed from Armenia by the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin in 1921 and placed under newly created Soviet Azerbaijani administration; and

WHEREAS, February 20, 1988 marked the beginning of the national liberation movement in Nagorno Karabakh, which inspired peoples throughout the Soviet Union to stand up against tyranny and for their rights and freedoms, helping to bring democracy to millions and contributing to world peace; and

WHEREAS, In 1989 the United States Senate expressed support for the legitimate aspirations for freedom of the people of Nagorno Karabakh, and on September 2, 1991 the elected legislature of Nagorno Karabakh declared the creation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic; and

WHEREAS, On December 10, 1991 the people of Nagorno Karabakh voted in favor of the independence of the region, and on January 6, 1992 the democratically elected legislature of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic formally declared independence; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijan responded to the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's aspiration for freedom with pogroms in Sumgait, Baku and other places, eventually unleashing full-scale aggression against the young democracy; and

WHEREAS, Despite the cease-fire with Azerbaijan in 1994, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's security and sovereignty continue to be threatened by regional tension and hostile acts; and

WHEREAS, Since proclaiming independence, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has registered significant progress in democracy building, which has been most recently demonstrated during the July 19, 2012 Presidential elections that were assessed by observers as free and transparent; and

WHEREAS, April 24, 2013 marks the commemoration of the 98th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide where 1,500,000 Armenians perished by the hands of the Ottoman government.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby encourage and support the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's continuing efforts to develop as a free and independent nation in order to guarantee its citizens rights inherent in a free and independent society, and respectfully urge the California State Legislature, the United States Congress and the President of the United States to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and its constructive involvement with the world community; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the United States Congress and the President of the United States to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide and commit to the education of future generations about the Armenian Genocide.

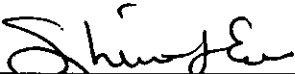
Adopted by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors this 23rd day of April 2013, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors Borgeas, Poochigian, Case, Larson, Perea
NOES: None
Absent: None



CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
BERNICE E. SEIDEL, Clerk
Board of Supervisors

By 

Deputy