

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

“In recognition of the importance of the annual Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide”

Resolution No. 2025-

Passed:

Jessica M. Marino, Council President

2025 Armenian Genocide Resolution

WHEREAS, from 1915-1923 during the Armenian Genocide, one and one-half million ethnic Armenian men, women and children as well as over one million Greeks, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Pontians, Syriacs, and others were massacred as part of the planned complete eradication of these Christian indigenous communities by the Ottoman Turkish Empire during the first modern genocide that still requires justice; and,

WHEREAS, Near East Relief's efforts,, resulted in delivering 117 million dollars of assistance between 1915 and 1930 that directly resulted in the salvation of the Christian Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian survivors from being completely annihilated by the Genocide; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Rhode Island and the City of Cranston recognized the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 affirming recognition of persecuted Armenians; and,

WHEREAS, prior to the implementation of the Holocaust, in order to garner support from his followers, Adolf Hitler asked “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?”; and,

WHEREAS, the genocide has been recognized by the US House of Representatives, US Senate and the President of the United States and over thirty countries, including: Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, the Vatican, and Argentina; and,

WHEREAS, the Republic of Armenia is now a free, independent, democratic state and a strategic ally of the United States; and,

WHEREAS, as a continuation of genocidal policies, in the lead up to the collapse of the Soviet Union and declaration of independence of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), ethnic Armenians were brutally killed in Sumgait (February 1988), Kirovabad (November 1988) and Baku (January 1990), and the entire Armenian minority of Azerbaijan, numbering over 350,000 people, was forcibly deported from the country; and,

WHEREAS, in July of 1988, within months of the Sumgait pogroms, the United States Senate unanimously passed Amendment 2690 to the Fiscal Year 1989 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill (H.R. 4782), concerning the Artsakh conflict and calling on the Soviet government to "respect the legitimate aspirations of the Armenian people ..." and noted that "dozens of Armenians have been killed and hundreds injured during the recent unrests ..."; and,

WHEREAS, in 1989, the United States Senate condemned the anti-Armenian Pogroms in Azerbaijan and called upon the Soviet government that "those responsible for the killing and bloodshed be identified and prosecuted"; and,

WHEREAS, on December 10th of 1991, despite continued violence against the people of Artsakh, a popular referendum proclaiming the republic took place in Artsakh during the process of the Soviet Union disintegration; and,

53 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijan committed a massacre against the peaceful civilians of Maragha on April 10, 1992;
54 and,

55 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijan attacked the Republic of Artsakh on September 27, 2020, for 44 days causing the
56 death and mutilation of thousands of Armenians on their own historic lands; and,

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58 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijan committed human rights violations by hiring Islamic militants, using prohibited
59 cluster munitions, banned white phosphorous, and directly targeting civilian targets and civilian populations; and,

60 **WHEREAS**, from December 12, 2022, Azerbaijan blockaded the only road connecting Artsakh to Armenia
61 which halted all food, medicine and fuel from entering Artsakh, and periodically cut off gas, electricity, water and lines
62 of communication creating a dire humanitarian crisis with the intent to annihilate the ethnic Armenian population in
63 violation of the United Nations Genocide Convention; and,

64 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijan attacked the population of Artsakh again on September 19, 2023, indiscriminately
65 killing civilians, women, children and the elderly and forcibly removing all Armenians from their 4,000-year-old
66 homeland as a final step to the genocide of the Armenians of Artsakh; and,

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68 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijan continues to occupy large swaths of territory in the Republic of Armenia and
69 continues to threaten more violence against its population including the annihilation of Armenians from the territories it
70 threatens to further occupy; and,

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72 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijani forces have systematically destroyed Armenian cultural heritage sites in the Artsakh
73 Republic, including churches, monasteries, cemeteries, and other cultural monuments; and

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75 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijan continues to illegally hold civilians, non-combatants, and prisoners of war in direct
76 violation of the Geneva Conventions; and,

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78 **WHEREAS**, Azerbaijani officials have not yet been sanctioned for their human rights violations during the
79 44-day war in 2020 and beyond; and,

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81 **WHEREAS**, by recognizing, remembering, and educating those about the Armenian Genocide, and the second
82 Armenian Genocide in the Republic of Artsakh, the Pogroms in Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad, the massacre in
83 Maragha, and all cases of past and ongoing genocide, we help protect historic memory, ensure that similar atrocities do
84 not occur again, and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution, and tyranny; and,

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86 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Honorable Cranston City Council:

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88 1. does hereby proclaim April 2025 and 2026 as Genocide Awareness and Prevention month in memory of
89 the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the Artsakh Genocide, and all other genocides in honor of all the
90 survivors as well as the rescuers and liberators, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the city of
91 Cranston, should work to promote human dignity and confront hate whenever and wherever it occurs.

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93 Sponsored by: Councilwoman Haroian, Council Vice President Wall and Council President Marino