BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF FRESNO STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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IN THE MATTER OF REMEMBERING AND)
COMMEMORATE THE 103RD ANNIVERSARY)
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE)

RESOLUTION NO. 18-128

WHEREAS, between 1915 and 1923 Armenians were subjected to torture, starvation, mass murder and exile from their historic homeland as the Ottoman Empire sought to eliminate all traces of a thriving, noble civilization; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide is known as the "First Genocide of the Twentieth Century" and despite the abundance of overwhelming and convincing evidence, the present government of Turkey persists in denying the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS, as part of a larger pattern of genocide the Greek population, including Demotic, Pontic and Cappadocian Greeks, was also targeted, suffering immeasurable cruelty at the hands of the Ottoman Empire that collectively falls under the term "Greek Genocide;" and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that the loss of life among innocent civilians in Turkey during the Ottoman campaign against Christian minorities of the Empire during this time was roughly 1.5 million Armenians who commemorate these atrocities on April 24th, one million Greeks who commemorate these atrocities on three separate dates that include September 14th for Asia Minor as a whole, May 19th for the Pontus region, and April 6th for the Eastern Thrace region, and 750,000 Assyrians who commemorate these atrocities on August 7th; and

WHEREAS, though the Turkish attack on Greeks, Armenians and Assyrians was widely noticed but went largely unchecked by the world community at the time, many nations now recognize and commemorate these atrocities, despite the history of successive Turkish governments who to this day still deny the word "genocide" as an accurate term for the mass killings that began under Ottoman rule in 1915. We commemorate these tragedies to honor the victims and survivors and reaffirm our commitment to preventing future atrocities from being committed against any people.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby remember and commemorate the 103rd Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 17TH day of April, 2018, to-wit:

AYES:

Supervisors Borgeas, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco, Quintero

NOES:

None None

ABSENT: ABSTAINED:

None

Sal Quintero, Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno

ATTEST:

BERNICE E. SEIDEL

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors County of Fresno, State of California

By <u>Susan</u> Bishop Deputy