

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has a long record of standing in support and friendship with the people of the Republic of Artsakh (formerly known as Nagorno-Karabagh), who are ethnically and culturally Armenian and indigenous to the region, and who courageously declared their independence from the Soviet Union and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan over thirty years ago and have enjoyed democratic self-governance ever since; and

WHEREAS, throughout its existence, the Republic of Artsakh and its people have wanted nothing more than to live in peace and safety and exercise their right of self-determination in the lands that have been central to Armenian identity for centuries; and

WHEREAS, the struggles of the people of Artsakh are similar to the struggles of all peoples who wish to establish democratic nations committed to the values of liberty and self-determination through free and fair elections, including the courageous Founders of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, consistent with our own fundamental values, the United States should support those who fight tyranny, including the brave and resolute people of Artsakh; and

WHEREAS, seven years ago, the City of Los Angeles formally recognized the Republic of Artsakh as a free, independent and sovereign state, and called upon the international community to do the same, in a City Council resolution adopted September 10, 2013; and

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2012, the City Council recognized the city of Shushi, under the governance of the Republic of Artsakh, as a "Friendship City" to the City of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, the City Council declared "Artsakh Day" in the City of Los Angeles and renewed its call to the international community to recognize the Republic of Artsakh as a free, independent and sovereign state in a resolution adopted on September 7, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan launched a large-scale military attack on the Republic of Artsakh without warning or provocation, shattering a ceasefire that had been in place for nearly thirty years, resulting in thousands of deaths and the destruction of centuries-old historic and cultural assets; and

WHEREAS, the military forces of Azerbaijan, with the full support of Turkey, targeted and destroyed civilian infrastructure including homes, hospitals, churches and schools utilizing drones, rockets, heavy artillery and cluster bombs; and

WHEREAS, military forces under the control of Azerbaijan and/or Turkey, including thousands of terrorist mercenaries illegally brought into the conflict from Syria, Libya and elsewhere, have committed innumerable well-documented atrocities and war crimes against the people of Artsakh and Armenia, including: the murder and torture of civilians, the murder and torture of prisoners; the beheading and maiming of combatants and civilians; the indiscriminate use of explosive and incendiary weapons, including cluster munitions, in civilian areas without military target; the burning of villages and forests with

NOV 24 2020



internationally banned white phosphorous incendiary weapons; and the destruction and desecration of ancient cultural and historical sites; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, Dr. Israel Charny (the founding president of the International Association Genocide Scholars and the Executive Director of the Institute on the Holocaust & Genocide in Jerusalem), together with dozens of other prominent and internationally respected genocide scholars, issued a statement "that genocide of the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh, and perhaps even Armenia, is a very real possibility. All of this proves that Armenians can face slaughter if any Armenian territory is occupied, consequently recognizing of the independence of the Republic of Artsakh is the way to save Armenians of Artsakh from extermination now or in the near future"; and

WHEREAS, having been abandoned by the international community, and facing an existential threat to Artsakh and the very real potential for another genocide of the Armenian people, Armenia signed a cease-fire agreement brokered by Russia that allows Azerbaijan to control much of Artsakh, including the city of Shushi; and

WHEREAS, the dictators of Azerbaijan and Turkey must be held to account for their war crimes and abrogation of international norms; and

WHEREAS, unless the United States government and the international community follow the lead of Los Angeles and recognize the Republic of Artsakh and protect the right of its residents to self-determination, the Armenian population and the Armenian cultural heritage of Artsakh will continue to face destruction and genocide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this resolution the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for any diplomatic, legislative or administrative action (i) to recognize the Republic of Artsakh as a sovereign and independent state, (ii) to hold Azerbaijan and Turkey accountable for their aggression and to ensure punishment for war crimes and atrocities, and (iii) to begin robust diplomatic engagement, through the OSCE Minsk Group or otherwise, to promote a permanent peace between the Republic of Artsakh and the government of Azerbaijan that includes the restoration of all territory illegally seized by Azerbaijan (including Shushi) to the Republic of Artsakh.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian  
PAUL KREKORIAN  
Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Seconded by: [Signature]

ORIGINAL