



Regular Council **AGENDA ITEM REPORT**

To: City Council
Subject: Approve a resolution recognizing April 24, 2023 as Remembrance Day of the genocide of the Armenians
Meeting: Regular Council - 18 Apr 2023
Department: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Staff Contact: Elaine Hardy, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The resolution is attached for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution Commemorating the Armenian Genocide 2023](#)

City of East Lansing, Michigan

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 24, 2023 AS REMEMBRANCE DAY OF
THE GENOCIDE OF THE ARMENIANS**

April 18, 2023

WHEREAS, the East Lansing community joins human rights advocates and historians from around the world to recognize and mourn the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in the Armenian Genocide as ordered by the government of the Ottoman Empire, which began on April 24, 1915, with the arrest, exile and murder of hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, political, religious and business leaders; and,

WHEREAS, during the 1915-1923 Genocide, Armenian survivors were forced to witness the slaughter of their relatives and the loss of their ancestral land and property in what is now known as the “First Genocide of the 20th Century;” and,

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan declared in Act 558 of 2002 that “April 24 of each year shall be the Michigan day of remembrance of the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923 . . . in memory of the victims of the genocide and in honor of the survivors;” and,

WHEREAS, the failure to learn from the past allows history to repeat itself, as the massacres of the Armenians continued in Baku and Sumgait in 1988-1990 and during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabagh war when the military forces of Azerbaijan and Turkey attacked the Armenian civilian population of Nagorno-Karabagh and its churches and civic buildings, resulting in casualties and loss of ancestral land and property, motivated by the same genocidal campaign that their ancestors suffered 107 years earlier; and,

WHEREAS, the East Lansing City Council is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its commemoration of the 108th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate others about the tragic loss of life, land and human rights of the Armenian people and the crimes of genocide committed against them, as well as Greeks and Assyrians, due to religious and political beliefs.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that April 24, 2023 will be recognized as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day in the City of East Lansing in memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide and in honor of the survivors and their descendants. The East Lansing City Council urges all citizens of East Lansing to join in this solemn remembrance.

Ron Bacon, Mayor

Marie Wicks, Interim City Clerk