



Legislation Details (With Text)

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Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Report to Mayor and City Council

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Consent

SUBJECT:

**LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ETHNIC ARMENIANS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH
(CITY COUNCIL)**

I. SUMMARY

Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, is a territory in the South Caucasus that has historically been populated by ethnic Armenians and targeted for centuries by neighboring forces. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, this region achieved sanctioned independence and had been protected by a cease fire agreement brokered in 1994 with the governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Republic of Artsakh.

On September 27, 2020 the government of Azerbaijan, aided by Turkish allies, declared war on this region.

II. RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE and SIGN letter to congressional leadership supporting ethnic Armenians in the Republic of Artsakh.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action that Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

The Armenian people have suffered and been the subject of systematic and premeditated genocidal campaigns beginning with the Ottoman government through 1919 and continued under the Kemalist government of the Republic of Turkey through 1923. During this time, approximately 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered with the goal of annihilation of the Armenian Nation. Additionally, during the period of the modern Republic of Turkey (1924 - 1937) thousands of women and children were abducted and required to change their Armenian names to Turkish names, convert to Islam and cleansed of their Armenian backgrounds.

This liquidation of Armenians had the consequence of permanently removing all traces of their homelands and enriched their perpetrators with their rightful lands and property. The current Republic of Turkey adamantly denies participating in these crimes against humanity throughout history, despite previous Turkish government admissions of involvement and overwhelming proof of their genocidal intent.

In 1994 a provisional ceasefire agreement was brokered through the OSCE Minsk Group to encourage a peaceful, negotiated resolution to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory.

On September 27, 2020, following increasingly aggressive rhetoric and destabilizing actions by Azerbaijan, their government declared war, mobilized their forces and engaged in unprovoked military action against the Republic of Artsakh. Azerbaijan's bombing of the city of Stepanakert, the country's capital and most densely populated city, has led to the deaths of dozens of civilians and over eighty government service members, and wounded hundreds.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Letter of Support

1.

Prepared by: City Manager's Office