

**A PROCLAMATION
OF THE COMMERCE CITY COUNCIL
DESIGNATING APRIL 24, 2018 AS
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
REMEMBERANCE DAY
IN THE CITY OF COMMERCE**

***WHEREAS**, on April 24, 1915, the rulers of the Ottoman Empire perpetrated what is known by historians as the ‘‘First Genocide of the Twentieth Century’’; and*

***WHEREAS**, The Armenian Genocide resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children, the forced exile of more than 500,000 innocents, death marches leading to the Syrian desert and the loss of the traditional Armenian homelands and cultural artifacts*

***WHEREAS**, some Turks and others jeopardized their safety in order to protect Armenians from the crimes being perpetrated by the Ottoman regime; and*

***WHEREAS**, Adolph Hitler, in persuading his army commanders on the eve of World War II to mercilessly persecute and kill millions of Jews, Poles, Catholics, Gypsies, homosexuals and other peoples, used the Armenian Genocide as an example of mass slaughter without international repercussion; and*

***WHEREAS**, to date, 29 countries and 45 US states have officially recognized the mass killings of the Armenian people within the Ottoman empire as genocide, as have most genocide scholars and historians; and*

***WHEREAS**, despite the overwhelming weight of evidence, the Republic of Turkey, as successor state of the Ottoman Empire, steadfastly denies the occurrence of the Armenian Genocide; and*

***WHEREAS**, those denials only fuel the grief and pain of the few remaining survivors and their families, desecrate the memory of the victims, and cause the continuing schism between the Armenian and Turkish peoples; and*

***WHEREAS**, California has become home to the largest population of Armenians in the United States, most of whom have enriched our state through leadership in business, government, academia, medicine, agriculture and the arts; and*

***WHEREAS**, Commerce is proud to join the Armenian-American community in its commemoration of the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in an effort to educate others about the crimes of genocide committed against the Armenian people; and*

***WHEREAS**, it is important to remind ourselves about the human atrocities that have taken place so that they never manifest in our world again.*

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE HEREBY PROCLAIMS APRIL 24, 2018 AS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBERANCE DAY IN THE CITY OF COMMERCE.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of April 2018.

Ivan Altamirano

Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Lena Shumway

City Clerk