

**BOULDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
April 24, 2015**

WHEREAS, this year marks the 100th anniversary of the first genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian genocide, when 1.5 million men, women, and children – 3/4 of the indigenous Armenian population of what is now eastern Turkey - were victims of a premeditated genocide perpetrated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923; and

WHEREAS, the former United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., stated in 1915, "Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, and whatever refinements of persecutions and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortunes of this devoted people."; and

WHEREAS, Colorado newspapers widely reported the extermination of the Armenian people, and Colorado communities generously raised funds to assist the survivors, known at that time as the "Starving Armenians", as illustrated in the January 16, 1919, Denver Post front-page story titled "Campaign for Armenian Relief is Making Splendid Headway" and a July 30, 1922, Denver Post front-page story titled "\$60,000,000 from U.S. Keeps Armenians from Extinction"; and

WHEREAS, the killing of the Armenian people has been followed by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art, and cultural monuments that continues to this day in an attempt to eliminate all traces of a noble civilization with a history of more than 3,000 years; and

WHEREAS, despite overwhelming evidence, modern Turkey continues to deny the facts of the genocide, honors the perpetrators of that crime against humanity as national heroes, and persecutes its citizens who acknowledge or even allude to the Armenian genocide; and

WHEREAS, each April, Armenians throughout the world honor their martyrs and commemorate the Armenian genocide, a term first used by Raphael Lemkin, the legal scholar who coined the word "genocide" and drafted the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, explaining in 1949 that he "became interested in genocide because it happened to the Armenians and . . . their criminals . . . were not punished."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado, that we pause in our deliberations on April 24 to commemorate the centennial anniversary as

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and that we encourage the citizens of Boulder to learn about the Armenian Genocide and other crimes against humanity.


Matthew Appelbaum, Mayor


George Karakehian, Council Member