REPORT April 26, 2017

BY: Christine Long, Chairperson, General Government Committee

IN RE: MR #17064 - BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - DESIGNATION OF APRIL 24, 2017 AS ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY IN OAKLAND COUNTY

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The General Government Committee, having reviewed the above referenced resolution on April 17, 2017, reports with the recommendation that the resolution be adopted.

Chairperson, on behalf of the General Government Committee, I move the acceptance of the foregoing report.

Commissioner Christine Long, District #7

Chairperson, General Government Committee

GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE VOTE:

Motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote with Kowall and Kochenderfer absent.

BY: Commissioner Shelley Taub, District #12; Bill Dwyer, District #14; Nancy Quarles, District #17; Wade Fleming, District #16; Hugh Crawford, District #9; and Marcia Gershenson, District #13

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IN RE: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - DESIGNATION OF APRIL 24, 2017 AS ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY IN OAKLAND COUNTY

To the Oakland County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen:

WHEREAS in 1915, the leaders of the Young Turk Party of the Ottoman Empire undertook a brutal, genocidal campaign of hatred against the people of Armenian descent; and

WHEREAS leaders of the Armenian people, including writers, thinkers, and professionals were rounded up, deported, and killed in Constantinople or present-day Istanbul, Turkey; and

WHEREAS the horrific events that followed have been recognized by scholars, governments, and civil society all over the world as the Armenian Genocide of World War I, when from 1915 through 1923, the Young Turk leadership of the Ottoman Empire orchestrated the persecution and death of approximately 1.5 million of the 2.5 million Armenians then living in Anatolia or present-day Turkey; and

WHEREAS this tragedy must be recognize as an attempted genocide of the Armenian people that inspired the horrific acts of others; and

WHEREAS the survivors of this massacre were forced from their homeland and scattered around the world; and

WHEREAS more than 11,000 people of Armenian descent reside in Southeast Michigan and many call Oakland County home; and

WHEREAS included among these many Armenian citizens are refugees, direct descendants and relatives whose lives were touched by the genocide; and

WHEREAS April 24, 2017 has been designated by community and religious leaders as Armenian Martyr's Day, a day of Memorial observance; and

WHEREAS even as we confront the inhumanity of 1915, we also are inspired by the remarkable spirit, strength, tenacity and courage of the Armenian people and their contributions which have enriched our communities, spurred our economy, and strengthened our democracy; and

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners desires to join in this observance to commemorate the victims of these crimes against humanity and express our desire that these horrors are never forgotten.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare April 24, 2017, and each subsequent anniversary, in perpetuity, to be Armenian Martyrs' Day in Oakland County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Clerk is requested to forward copies of this adopted resolution to the Armenian Embassy in Washington, DC, St. John's Armenian Church of Southfield and the Armenian National Committee.

Chairperson, I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

Commissioner Shelley Taub
District #12

Commissioner Nancy Quarles
District #17

Commissioner Hugh Crawford
District #9

Commissioner Michiel Spiss

Commissioner Wade Fléming
District #16

Commissioner Bill Dwyer

Commissioner Marcia Gershenson
District #13

Commissioner District # 4

District #14

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Resolution #17064 March 15, 2017

The Chairperson referred the resolution to the General Government Committee. There were no objections.

Resolution #17064 April 26, 2017

Moved by Berman supported by Bowman the resolutions (with fiscal notes attached) on the Consent Agenda be adopted (with accompanying reports being accepted).

AYES: Crawford, Dwyer, Fleming, Gershenson, Hoffman, Jackson, Kochenderfer, Kowall, Long, McGillivray, Middleton, Quarles, Spisz, Taub, Tietz, Weipert, Zack, Berman, Bowman. (19) NAYS: None. (0)

A sufficient majority having voted in favor, the resolutions (with fiscal notes attached) on the Consent Agenda were adopted (with accompanying reports being accepted).

I HEREBY APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION CHIEF DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE ACTING PURSUANT TO MCL 45.559A (7)

STATE OF MICHIGAN) COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Lisa Brown, Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on April 26, 2017, with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Oakland at Pontiac, Michigan this 26th day of April, 2017.

Lisa Brown, Oakland County