WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide began with the murder of over 200 Armenian community leaders, writers, thinkers and professionals who were arrested and taken from their homes in Constantinople before dawn on April 24, 1915; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide was a prolonged program of terror and mass executions that resulted in the deaths of approximately 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children from 1915 to 1923, out of a total of 2.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide also included efforts to eliminate all traces of a thriving and noble civilization over 3,000 years old by the systematic destruction of churches, schools, libraries, treasures of art and cultural monuments; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide was masterminded by the political party in power in the Ottoman Empire called the Committee of Union and Progress, popularly known as the Young Turk regime, that believed in an extreme form of nationalism, and this genocide has been recognized as the “first genocide of the 20th Century” that became the prototype for the genocides that followed; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide also witnessed Turks who jeopardized their own safety in order to protect Armenians from the slaughter being perpetrated by the Young Turk regime; and

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide’s remembrance is a way to honor the memory of Armenian victims, guard against the repetition of those acts, counter historical revisionism that denies the genocide, and help Armenian-Americans build a secure and prosperous future as they continue to enrich our County through their leadership roles in the fields of business, agriculture, education, medicine, science and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby proclaim April 24, 2007 as the

SANTA CLARA COUNTY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE OF 1915-1923

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this Twenty-Fourth Day of April, Two Thousand and Seven, by unanimous vote.

Approved as to Form and Legality

County Counsel

Date 4/16/07