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Agenda Item: ID16-071

Date: 1/14/16

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FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Supplemental Information Packet

Agenda Related Item(s) – ID16-071

Contents of Supplement: Resolution Item(s)

RESOLUTION – Recognizing the November 1984 Anti-Sikh Violence in India as
“Genocide”

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk’s Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk’s website.

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The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk’s Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, RECOGNIZING THE NOVEMBER
1984 ANTI-SIKH VIOLENCE IN INDIA AS "GENOCIDE"

WHEREAS, The City of Fresno is in support of this resolution to recognize the intentional, deliberate, and systematic killing of Sikhs in India during November 1984 as "Genocide" as defined under the laws of the United States and U.N. Convention.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Fresno:

WHEREAS, Sikhism is the world's 5th largest religion with more than 26 million followers; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination on October 31, 1984, organized and systematic violence was carried out with the active connivance of the police and administration, against the Sikh population throughout India, with a clear intent to destroy the Sikh community; and

WHEREAS, the violence against the Sikhs continued unabated for several days in more than 100 cities across India resulting in over 30,000 Sikhs killed, thousands of women raped, hundreds of Gurudwaras (Sikh Temples) burnt, and more than 300,000 Sikhs displaced; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, a mass Grave of Sikhs in the village Hondh-Chillar, in the state of Haryana, was unearthed, which was followed by the discovery of similar startling new evidence containing mass graves, ruined villages, burnt Gurudwaras, and other traces of the annihilation of the Sikh population during November 1984 in the states of Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir; and

1 of 3

Date Adopted:

Date Approved:

Effective Date:

City Attorney Approval:



Resolution No.

WHEREAS, the pattern of November 1984 genocidal violence against Sikhs has been allowed to perpetuate and has now become part of the Indian system; and

WHEREAS, under the laws of the United States and the U.N. Genocide Convention, genocide is defined as “attack with an intent to destroy in whole or in part, a religious or ethnic community”; and

WHEREAS, Section 1091 of 18 U.S. C and “Genocide Accountability Act of 2007” make the crime of genocide committed anywhere and anytime, punishable by the United States Courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated by reference.
2. Recognizes November 1984 violence against Sikh lives, properties, and places of worship throughout India, was carried out with intent to destroy the Sikh community and was thus “Genocide” as defined under the laws of the United States and the U.N. Genocide Convention of 1984.
3. Calls upon Barack Obama, the President of the United States and the Congress to recognize anti-Sikh violence of November 1984 as “Genocide”.
4. This ordinance shall become effective and in full force and effect at 12:01a.m. on the thirty-first day after its final passage.

* * * * *

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2016.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2016
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2016
Mayor Veto: _____, 2016
Council Override Vote: _____, 2016

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC
City Clerk

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: _____
Laurie Avedisian-Favini [Date]
Assistant City Attorney

LAF:ns [70143ns/laf]