

# CITY OF FOWLER

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*Office of Councilmember Karnig Kazarian*

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## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fowler mourns with the sons, daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the over 1.5 million innocent Armenians who perished from 1915 to 1923 in the mass and systematic extermination perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire; and

**WHEREAS**, after decades of capitulating to geopolitical pressures, a president of the United States, Joe Biden, unequivocally declared those atrocities as genocide, representing a historic step toward fully realizing our nation's commitment to human rights across the world and addressing generational victimization at home; and

**WHEREAS**, a dangerous precedent still exists in light of a well-documented genocide that Turkey not only continues to deny but also inflames by supporting Azerbaijan's efforts to eradicate Armenians in the Artsakh Republic, and we can no longer let the Armenian Genocide serve as a blueprint for further genocides; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence is mounting in Ukraine to support genocidal claims, and the City of Fowler supports the international community's unified response, which includes sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, to Russian aggression; and

**WHEREAS**, this global condemnation resulting in actionable steps such as sanctions would be strengthened as a deterrent by enforcing similar measures for the Turkish government's denial campaign sustained, in part, by invoking Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code to intimidate dissenters and ultimately limit freedom of expression with regard to the Armenian Genocide within Turkey; and

**WHEREAS**, in remembering the Armenian Genocide, the City of Fowler also seeks to bring awareness to preventing future genocides.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, Councilmembers of the City of Fowler do hereby proclaim that this City recognizes April 24, 2022, as:

### **DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND PREVENTION OF FUTURE GENOCIDES**

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**MAYOR PRO-TEM MARK RODRIQUEZ**

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**COUNCILMEMBER KARNIG KAZARIAN**

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**COUNCILMEMBER JUAN MEJIA**

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**COUNCILMEMBER DANIEL PARRA**