



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Armenian Genocide unfolded during the tumultuous years of World War I within the boundaries of the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, after World War I, massacres and ethnic cleansing continued during the Turkish War of Independence. The Armenian homeland in eastern Anatolia, which was inhabited by the Armenians for more than 2,000 years, was forever changed.; and

WHEREAS, between 1915 and 1916, an estimated 1.5 to 2 million Armenians were forcibly marched from their homes to the Syrian Desert. These death marches were characterized by unimaginable suffering—deprivation of food, water, and basic necessities.; and

WHEREAS, this dark chapter in history left an indelible mark on the Armenian people, forever altering their collective identity and shaping the course of their future; and

WHEREAS, 34 countries have officially recognized these events as genocide, and scholars, historians, and survivors continue to advocate for acknowledgment and justice, Turkey still denies the first genocide of the 20th century; and

NOW, THEREFORE, we recognize April 24, 2024 as **Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day** and call on our residents to honor and remember the lives lost and advocate for truth, reconciliation, and human rights.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Town of Little Elm, Texas, this 16th day of April, 2024.

Curtis J. Cornelious, Mayor of Little Elm