



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177
kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 28, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Susan Wengraf, and Sophie Hahn

Subject: Proclamation in Honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the Holocaust Remembrance Day Proclamation.

BACKGROUND:

“Israel’s Knesset (parliament) established Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, as a memorial to about six million Jewish people who were [systematically murdered] by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945. It is observed on the 27th day of the month of Nisan. The full name of the day is Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah, which means the ‘Day of (remembrance of) the Holocaust and the Heroism’.”

“The Jewish holiday of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day) is a national day of commemoration in Israel, on which the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and the Jewish resistance to the Nazis are memorialized. Yom HaShoah 2017 begins in the evening of Sunday, April 23th.

In order to maintain the progressive ideals and attitudes that we uphold, it is important for the City of Berkeley to recognize and remember this tragic time in history. For all those persecuted and killed for their Jewish heritage and faith during World War II, we invite the community to share song, traditional music, verse, and personal stories in commemorating this day.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170
Councilmember Susan Wengraf 510-981-7160

Attachments:

1. Proclamation

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

WHEREAS, We remember with sadness the millions of victims of the "final solution." We remember with admiration the resisters, known and unknown, who risked and lost their lives to save others. We remember with respect the survivors, who escaped or who were freed, and to this very day, live to contribute so much to our world and our city. We remember today to firmly commit ourselves to say NEVER AGAIN; and

WHEREAS, We remember today the eleven million people killed by Nazi genocidal policy. It was the explicit aim of Hitler's regime to create a European world dominated and populated by the "Aryan" race; and

WHEREAS, We remember that those believed by Hitler and the Nazis to be enemies of the state, were banished to squalid concentration and death camps. Inside the camps prisoners were forced to wear various colored triangles, each color denoting a different group; and

WHEREAS, We remember the millions who died for who they were, how they worshiped, what they believed, and who they loved. Victims included Jews, Romanies, Poles and other Slavs, people with physical disabilities, Jehovah's Witnesses, lesbians and gays, the dissenting clergy, Communists, Socialists, and other political enemies; and

WHEREAS, We remember the African German children, offspring of German mothers and African soldiers, who were forcibly sterilized due to their mixed race heritage; and

WHEREAS, We remember the Holocaust was the state sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jews by Nazi Germany. The Jewish people were marked for total destruction and over six million Jews were murdered; and

WHEREAS, We remember and honor those who survived such persecution, and have bravely shared their stories with not only their communities, but also the world at large. Among them is Ben Stern, whose story is now told in a J-Weekly featured documentary *Near Normal Man*; and,

WHEREAS, We remember, to preserve this shared history of anguish, to keep it vivid and real, so that racism, Anti-Semitism, hatred, persecution and prejudice can be combated and contained; and

WHEREAS, We remember, and by memorializing the past we thereby steel ourselves for the challenges of tomorrow.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that we the people of Berkeley will always remember the suffering victims, always remember the courage of the resisters, and always treasure the survivors who are still with us in Berkeley. We join in the worldwide chorus of hope and activism to say never again and to proclaim

APRIL 23th, 2017 AS HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY IN BERKELEY

Mayor Jessie Arreguin

Councilmember Linda Mayo

Councilmember Cheryl Davila

Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Councilmember Sophie Hahn

Councilmember Lori Droste

Councilmember Susan Wengraf

Councilmember Kriss Worthington