

**Report of the**  
**Citizens' Memorial Advisory Committee**  
**to the**  
**Glendale City Council**  
**July 31, 2001**

**Committee**

The Committee membership was determined by City Council appointment.  
The members of the Committee are:

Albert Abkarian	Greg Krikorian
Armond Agakhani*	Artin Manoukian
Ara Aharonian	Dr. Levon Marashlian
Mary Boger	Rabbi Carol Meyers**
Lynda Burns	Loretta Novak
Iva Carrico	Leslyn Ray
Wanda Dorn	Harut Sassounian
Vahik Gourjian	Scott Schaffer
Richard Guerrero	Father Joseph Shea
Dr. Armine G. Hacopian	Zaven Sinanian
Max Hobbs	Khaled Soliman
Steve Hova Gimian	Odalis Suarez
Berdj Karapetian	Carole Sussman
Ardashes Kassakhian	Grace Walker
Dick Kemp	Fred Whitaker

\* Regretfully, a scheduling conflict forced Mr. Armond Agakhani to submit his resignation to the Committee.

\*\* Rabbi Carol Meyers was unable to attend any of the Committee meetings.

At the first meeting of the Committee Mary Boger and Harut Sassounian were elected to serve as co-chairs of the Committee.

The Committee looks with favor on the concept of a universal monument, memorializing crimes against humanity, if there should be wide spread public support.

### **Conclusion**

The Citizens' Memorial Committee, whose membership was composed of concerned citizens appointed by the members of the Glendale City Council, met in accordance with a proposed work schedule. After extensive discussions and debate, the Committee developed recommendations. These recommendations were presented to the Committee as motions. The motions carried by nearly unanimous votes.

### **Comments**

The Committee extends its gratitude to the Council for the opportunity to address these important areas of concern to the City of Glendale. Further, the Committee commends to the Council the staff members whose assistance was invaluable in dealing with these complex issues. The thoroughness of their reports and their willingness to answer questions without attempting to influence the Committee was appreciated. City Manager Jim Starbird, City Attorney Scott Howard, Assistant City Manager Robert McFall, Administrative Analyst Zizette Ayad, Patrick Asfura, Yasmin Kamria, Steve Zurn, Ron Braden, and Elaine Aguilar offered able assistance to the Committee. The Committee is also grateful to Cindy Cleary of the Glendale Public Library and Scott Reese from the Department of Parks and Recreation for their informational reports and their willingness to answer the many questions raised by the Committee Members. Mr. Howard's report with regard to public forums and his assistance to the Co-Chairs in handling Brown Act requirements was especially appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary W. Boger  
Co-Chair

Harut Sassounian  
Co-Chair

Cc: Committee Members

After further discussions and reports from City Staff, the following recommendations were agreed upon:

- The Committee recommends to the City Council that the City create a room dealing with crimes against humanity in a library, preferably the Main Library, or in a City facility, accessible to the public. (This motion carried by a vote of 20 to 0 with 1 abstention.)
- The Committee recommends to the City Council that an annual commemoration program dealing with crimes against humanity, co-sponsored by the City, in collaboration with public/private entities, be held during the week of April 24th. (This motion carried by a vote of 19 to 0 with 2 abstentions.)
- The Committee recommends that the City Council accept the gift of a monument to honor the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide and the memory of Americans whose actions helped save thousands of Armenian men, women, and children from perishing in the genocide between 1915 and 1918. (This motion carried by a vote of 20 to 0 with 1 abstention.)
- The Committee recommends to the City Council that Caesar Chavez's birthday, March 31st, be recognized as an official day of commemoration by the City of Glendale for injustices which occurred to farm workers; and advises the Council that it looks with favor on the concept of the City of Glendale being amenable to proposals from other groups to recognize injustices to their people or their community.
- The Committee recommends to the City Council that they consider one or more of the following options for implementation of the preceding recommendations:

Establishing an Advisory Committee to formulate plans for a room dealing with crimes against humanity in a library or a City owned facility accessible to the public.

Establishing an Advisory Committee for an annual program commemorating man's inhumanity to man during the week of April 24th.

Retaining the Citizens' Memorial Advisory Committee to continue to address these recommendations in phases.

Exploring the establishment of a non-profit organization to implement the recommendations.

Entertain other options for addressing these recommendations.

## **Charge**

The charge to the Committee from the Glendale City Council was:

". . . to develop recommendations for commemorating victims of the Armenian and/or other genocides, and/or "man's inhumanity to man".

And that their scope of work might include:

Recommendations on how to appropriately commemorate the Armenian Genocide and other human atrocities.

What type of commemoration should be done - should it be a physical memorial, a commemorative event, or both?

General recommendations regarding a physical memorial, if such are advised, including type and intent of memorial, potential location, funding options and management of the memorial.

## **Work Schedule**

The Committee met in accordance with a proposed work schedule provided by Staff. The Committee met five (5) times. The public was invited to comment at all of the Committee meetings and prior to the Committee voting on all motions. Meetings were held on June 14th and 21st at Fire Station 21. The July 5th meeting was canceled due to the conflict with the July 4th Holiday. The Committee met again on June 28th at the Perkins Room, July 11th at Fire Station 21 and held its final meeting on July 19th at the Civic Auditorium. The public was encouraged to attend and provide input to the Committee. The meetings were promoted through Channel 6, the News Press, and the City Clerk's Office for Public Notice posting.

## **Recommendations**

The Committee held lengthy and lively discussions. Many points of view were expressed.

The Committee determined the scope of commemoration should be:

- Armenian Genocide
- Armenian Genocide and other Atrocities
- Universal Recognition of Man's Inhumanity to Man
- Any combination of the above