

RESOLUTION 2022-04-14-0026R

IN COMMEMORATION OF HOLODOMOR AND SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

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WHEREAS, between 1917 and 1921, Ukraine briefly became an independent country before being incorporated into the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1920's, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin decided to control Ukraine's cultural autonomy and began Russia's ambitious Five-Year Plan to industrialize the Soviet Union, commenced the curtailment Ukraine's cultural autonomy, launched efforts of intimidation and arrest, imprisoned and executed thousands of Ukrainian intellectuals, church leaders, and those who supported Ukraine's distinctiveness; and

WHEREAS, Stalin also ordered the collectivization of agriculture, confiscating property of independent farmers who resisted these efforts, and forced the farmers to work on government collective farms, or declared them enemies of the state, drove them out of their homes and deported many to remote parts of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, in 1932, impossibly high quotas of grain were set for Ukrainian villages, and when they were unable to produce those quotas, the requisition campaign was intensified, grain confiscated, fines levied, and foodstuffs seized by special teams and denied the farmers and farm workers access to food, further displacing the population; and

WHEREAS, the loss of independent landholdings and the coercive nature of the Plan led to active resistance by the farmers and farm workers which manifested itself in protests, violence against officials, abandonment of farms and flight, slaughter of farm animals, and acts of sabotage, greater than in other Soviet republics, due in large part to historical memory and experiences in previous attempts to establish an independent Ukrainian state; and

WHEREAS, the lack of food and severe crisis in the countryside triggered a mass migration of farmers and farm workers in search of food to cities in Soviet Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus, while remaining farmers, undernourished and weak, were unable to sow crops or to tend crops overgrown with weeds; and

WHEREAS, Stalin persisted in his goal to bring Soviet Ukraine more firmly under the Kremlin leadership's direct political control to suppress resistance and thwart the possibility that the republic would secede from the USSR; and

WHEREAS, amid the continued oppression of the extraordinary cruel and punitive policies and actions by the Soviet leadership, people continued to die of famine, the populace was exhausted, the countryside stripped of grain, children abandoned in towns and cities, left to wander streets

begging for food, weakened Ukrainians unable to even conduct burial of their dead, resulting in the deaths of about four million Ukrainians; and

WHEREAS, in early 1933, more grain was provided to assist collective farm managers and farmers still able and willing to sow crops, but the overwhelming rural population was still left in the grip of starvation; and

WHEREAS, in May 1933, the severe policies were relaxed, bringing more predictability in crop production, and the Soviets, recognizing the need to repopulate the rural work force, pressed officials, students, workers and others from cities into service to aid the agricultural sector, which led to famine conditions subsiding; and

WHEREAS, in Ukraine, the Stalin regime's terrorist repressions, which targeted the rural and agricultural sector, Bolshevik party officials and many intellectual, cultural and political leaders constituted genocide to end resistance in the countryside and achieve near total control over the entire economy, consolidate centralization and more direct control over Soviet Ukraine, its political leadership and population, thereby creating favorable conditions for the development of a culturally Russian 'Soviet people' and state with imperial, global ambitions and reach; and

WHEREAS, these events, later named Holodomor, meaning "death by hunger" in Ukrainian, were vehemently denied by Russia, refusing to admit that the famine was due to Stalin's policies and actions, and was largely unknown until 1987; and

WHEREAS, In 2006 Ukraine's Legislature declared Holodomor a genocide, the result of deliberate actions that created conditions of life leading to the physical destruction in whole or in part of a national, ethnic, religious or racial group; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, a special commission of the US Congress established to investigate the Ukrainian famine concluded that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-33.", and other countries have adopted resolutions or statements recognizing the Holodomor as genocide; and

WHEREAS, today, Ukraine is the second-largest country in Europe by land mass, and has a long and rich history with its own unique language, literature, and cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, on August 24, 1991, Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine is a democratic republic with a constitution that provides for a directly elected president, and has been building democratic institutions and working to improve the lives of its residents; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, 100 years after the Holodomor took place, Russian President Vladimir Putin launched an unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine, invading a sovereign nation and forcing thousands to flee their homes to seek refuge in neighboring countries; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, the World Health Organization reported 52 attacks impacting health care facilities across the country and Ukraine's Education and Science Ministry has reported damage to more than 500 educational facilities; and

WHEREAS, due to Russia's aggressive actions, some 1.4 million people now lack access to safe water; 4.6 million people have limited water access - under threat of being entirely cut-off - and more than 450,000 babies aged 6 to 23 months, need complementary food support; and

WHEREAS, also on March 24, 2022, The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that a month since Russia invaded Ukraine, 4.3 million children, more than half of the country's estimated 7.5 million child population, have been displaced, one of the fastest large-scale displacement of children since World War Two; and

WHEREAS, During the United Nation's 11th Emergency Special Session, 193 Member States adopted a resolution – drafted by Ukraine and 90 co-sponsors entitled *Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine* – with 140 votes in favor, five against – Russia, Syria, The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (more commonly known as North Korea), Eritrea and Belarus – and 38 others abstaining; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine is once again on the front lines of the battle for freedom of democratic countries around the world - and the fight against the evils of dictators and the people and leaders of Ukraine have demonstrated incredible resolve, tenacity, and bravery in the face of the Russian invasion; and

WHEREAS, the United States and nations around the world have united to condemn the invasion and have levied sanctions against Russia and its financial institutions; and

WHEREAS, in San Antonio, the local Ukrainian-American community has mobilized volunteers and donations, including recent medical supply drives and fundraising in efforts to support the Ukrainian people; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio has great sympathies and support for the people of Ukraine, and stand in compassionate solidarity with those affected by the conflict and wishes to express those in a resolution commemorating the Holodomor and support of the Ukrainian country; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

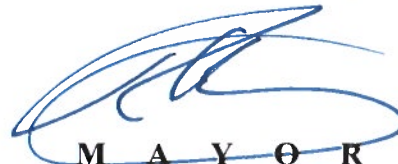
SECTION 1. The San Antonio City Council commemorates the centennial of the genocide of the Ukrainian people, and on behalf of the City condemns Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and expresses heartfelt support to the country of Ukraine, its people and steadfastly stands behind the Ukrainian people in their fight to defend themselves against the authoritarian Russian president Vladimir Putin.

SECTION 2. As an international city, the City of San Antonio adds its voice to those demanding an immediate cease-fire and the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine and affirms support for ongoing humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine.

SECTION 3. The City of San Antonio supports the coalition of nations imposing sanctions on Russia and encourages its international business, civic, and philanthropic communities to support the Ukrainian people in all possible ways in their fight to retain their freedom.

SECTION 4. This Resolution is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise it is effective ten days after its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of April 2022.



M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:



Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



for Andrew Segovia, City Attorney