

Proclamation

PONTIAN GREEKS GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

May 19, 2007

WHEREAS, Norwalk is home to many ethnic communities that value and cherish the principles of freedom and democracy upon which our country was founded; and

WHEREAS, In what is considered to be the first mass genocide of the twentieth century, 353,000 Greeks living in Pontus were murdered and an equal amount forced to flee their homeland in terror by the Ottoman Empire during the period of 1914 to 1922. This is an event which represents one of the most condemnable atrocities in the history of the world; and

WHEREAS, The survival and recovery of the Pontian Greeks from this terrible tribulation have given hope and inspiration to oppressed and persecuted peoples all over the world; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that all freedom loving people worldwide and in the City of Norwalk join with the Greek American community in commemoration of the suffering and cruelty inflicted upon the defenseless and unarmed during the persecution of the Greeks of Asia Minor; and

WHEREAS, We the people of the City of Norwalk should always remember the terrible events of the Pontian Greeks Genocide and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny; and

WHEREAS, Today we solemnly recognize and remember the victims of this devastating event, and we pay tribute to the survivors. We give thanks to them and their descendants for the many enriching contributions they have made to the culture and growth of the City of Norwalk, the State of Connecticut, and the United States of America; and

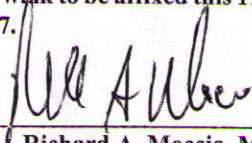
WHEREAS, The Day of Remembrance has been set aside for the people of the City of Norwalk to remember the victims of the Pontian Greeks Genocide as well as to reflect on the need for respect of all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, CONNECTICUT do hereby proclaim Saturday, May 19, 2007 as:

PONTIAN GREEKS GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

in Norwalk in memory of the victims of the Pontian Greeks Genocide, and in honor of the survivors, and further proclaim that we, as citizens of the City of Norwalk, Connecticut, should strive to overcome intolerance and indifference through learning and remembrance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Norwalk to be affixed this 11th day of May, 2007.


Richard A. Moccia, MAYOR
City of Norwalk, Connecticut

