

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 177

Approved April 26, 2024

WHEREAS, During the month of April, Cambodian communities nationwide will participate in a candlelight vigil in honor of the National Day of Remembrance; and

WHEREAS, From Washington to California to Illinois and Rhode Island, the vigil will serve to remember those lost during the Cambodian genocide from 1975-1979; and

WHEREAS, On April 17, 1975, the Khmer Rouge marched into Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, and evacuated the entire city, forcing people into labor camps and executing former government officials, doctors, artists, activists, scholars, among others; and

WHEREAS, 1975 became known as "Year Zero" as it was marked by the Khmer Rouge regime; and

WHEREAS, Under that regime, it has been estimated that over 2 million lives were lost due to execution and starvation; and

WHEREAS, Within the last 40 years, the scars from that genocide continue to exist for many Cambodians whether in Cambodia, the US, or elsewhere across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Providence is home to a vibrant and resilient Cambodian community, the origins of which can be traced to refugees fleeing the Cambodian genocide; and

WHEREAS, Our world today continues to experience genocide in different regions across the globe; and

WHEREAS, During the month of April, Providence will join communities around the country to vigil and stand in solidarity with those who are genocide survivors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council recognizes Saturday, April 27, 2024, as Rhode Island's second annual Cambodian Genocide Day of Remembrance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence City Council commends the Cambodian Society of Rhode Island (CSRI), the Alliance of RI Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE), and Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM) for organizing this year's Day of Remembrance as an opportunity to heal the community from the impact of war and acknowledge the resilience of genocide survivors.

IN CITY COUNCIL
APR 18 2024
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.


Mayor

Date: 4/26/2024