



COUNCIL AGENDA: 03/30/2021

ITEM: 2.16

FILE NO: 21-663

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Toni J. Taber, CMC
City Clerk

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: March 30, 2021

SUBJECT: Retroactive Approval of Recognizing March 25, 2021 as the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day Sponsored by Council District 9 as a City Council Sponsored Special Event to Expend City Funds and Accept Donations of Materials and Services for the Event.

Recommendation

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on March 24, 2021:

- (a) Retroactively approve March 25, 2021 as the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds; and
- (b) Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses, or community groups to support the event.

CEQA: Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment. (Foley)

[Rules Committee referral 3/24/2021 - Item G.1.b]



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Pam
Foley, District 9

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 03/11/2021

Approved

Date

03/11/2021

SUBJECT: Retroactive approval recognizing March 25, 2021 as the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day Sponsored by Council District 9 as a City Council Sponsored Special Event to Expend City Funds and Accept Donations of Materials and Services for the Event.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Retroactively approve March 25, 2021 as the 200th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day as a City Council Sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses or community groups to support the event.
3. Place the item on the Tuesday, March 30 City Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

On March 25, 1821, the people of Greece ended nearly four centuries of oppression under the Ottoman Empire. This year marks the bicentennial (200th anniversary) of Greece's 1821 Revolution and War of Independence.

A source of national pride, the Greeks everywhere celebrate the Hellenic ideals of democracy and freedom hence saying: ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ! (Long live Greece!).

With the fall of the Byzantine Empire, Greece fell under Ottoman rule in 1453. In response, Greece began producing small factions of revolutionaries. On March 25, 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at his monastery in Agia Lavras in the Peloponnese. "Freedom or Death" (Ελευθερία ή Θάνατος – Eleftheria i Thanatos) becomes the motto of the revolution.

By the end of March 1821, the Peloponnese officially declared war on the Ottomans. The Greeks then captured Athens in June, 1822 and created their first constitution.

At this point, all of Greece united together (from Macedonia to Crete) to rise up against the Ottoman Empire. Greek General Theodoros Kolokotronis then established the Greek Navy. With the help of Ottoman commanders from Egypt, the Ottomans recapture Athens and most of the Greek isles in 1827. Great Britain, France and Russia intervened in the conflict on the side of Greece.

At the Battle of Navarino the combined forces of Great Britain, France, Russia, and Greece destroyed an Ottoman-Egyptian fleet in October, 1827. This was a pivotal moment in the saga of Greek Independence.

The Revolution ended with the Treaty of Adrianople (Treaty of Edirne), which was signed between Russia and Turkey on September 14, 1829.

Greece is given autonomy and recognized as an independent state in 1832. For the next 100 years, Greece slowly regains all of her territory to what it is known today.

ANALYSIS

Approval by the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council's prior direction regarding Council Special Events. In observance of existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Councilmember Pam Foley will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event on their Disclosure of Fundraising Report (DFR-1). Approval of this memorandum will enable Council District 9, City departments and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. Any cash donations received will be processed pursuant to the City's normal financial and budgetary procedures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City's Website for the March 24, 2021 Rules Committee Agenda and the March 30, 2021 City Council Agenda.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP17-010, City Organization & Administrative Activities resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

Exempt, File No. PP12-080. Minor temporary use of land having negligible or no permanent effect on the environment.

Exempt, File No. PP13-056, Activities associated with citywide litter clean-up activities.

Exempt, File No. PP11-046, Graffiti removal services.

Reviewed by:
TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk

For questions, please contact Toni Taber, City Clerk, at (408) 535-1260.