



To: The Los Angeles City Council

From: Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles

Date: July 11, 2019

Statement in Support of City Council File #11-1678-S3: Motion Regarding City Food Concessions and Vegan Food Options

To Los Angeles City Council:

Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles supports the Motion by Councilmember Koretz to require city-operated concessions, and possibly other venues, to provide at least one vegan protein option to patrons.

It is well-documented that animals suffer tremendously and needlessly due to our current system of animal agriculture. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) lists the major causes of animal suffering on factory farms as follows:

- Cages and overcrowding.
- Physical alterations like teeth-clipping or tail-docking, performed without anesthetic
- Indoor confinement with poor air quality and unnatural light patterns
- Inability to engage in important natural behaviors, like laying eggs in nests or roosting at night
- Breeding for fast growth or high yields of meat, milk and eggs that compromises animal health and welfare
- Illnesses and injuries left unnoticed or untreated, often due to an unmanageable ratio of animals to workers
- Reliance on antibiotics to compensate for stressful and unsanitary conditions
- Rough or abusive handling by workers, often due to a lack of training, frustration at poor working conditions, unreasonable demands by superiors or poor design of facilities

(www.asPCA.org/animal-cruelty/farm-animal-welfare). In addition, the poor conditions and abusive treatment described above end in premature death.

Providing vegan options at city operated concessions will reduce the consumption of factory farming products and thereby decrease the suffering imposed on sentient beings to satisfy human preference.

There is no evidence that the consumption of animal products is necessary for human health. In fact, the position of the American Dietetic Association, published in 2009, is as follows:

“[A]ppropriately planned vegetarian diets, including total vegetarian or vegan diets, are healthful, nutritionally adequate, and may provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases.” (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19562864)

In addition, the Alliance for World Scientists in the 2017 publication “World Scientists’ Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice” signed by 15,364 scientists from 184 countries, declared that “promoting dietary shifts towards mostly plant-based foods” is one of the changes we must make if we are “to prevent widespread misery and catastrophic biodiversity loss.” In fact, scientists studying the climate crises recognize that “drastically diminishing our per capita consumption of fossil fuels, meat, and other resources” is required if we are to save our planet and all of its incredible diversity. (academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/67/12/1026/4605229)

City Council 11-1678-S3, which only calls for providing the option to choose a vegan meal at city concessions, will support the life-style changes required to meet the grave global situation we have created. Providing these options supports the mission of our organization to promote freedom and dignity for non-human animals everywhere. In the interests of compassion, human health, and environmental sustainability, Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles urges the Los Angeles City Council to support this motion and make vegan options available for the people of Los Angeles at city-operated concessions and other venues.

Thank you,

Kiersten Cluster
Co-founder, Elephant Guardians of Los Angeles