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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

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When making inquiries relative to
this matter, please refer to the
Council File No.

October 25, 2013

To All Interested Parties:

The City Council adopted the action(s), as attached, under Council File
No. 12-0186, at its meeting held October 23, 2013.

City Clerk
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File No. 12-0186

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Your **PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE** Committee

reports as follows:

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the use of exotic and wild animals, and/or elephants, in performances by traveling shows within the City of Los Angeles.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Koretz - LaBonge):

1. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance prohibiting the use of elephants in traveling shows and exhibitions.
2. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance prohibiting in any public performance-related context the use of bullhooks (aka "guides" or ankuses), baseball bats, axe handles, pitchforks and other implements and tools designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training and controlling the behavior of elephants (per the Board of Animal Services Commissioners' action of April 24, 2012).
3. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance prohibiting the use of elephants in traveling shows and exhibitions (including circuses) and, in any public performance-related context, the use of bullhooks/guides, baseball bats, axe handles, pitchforks and other implements and tools designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training and controlling the behavior of elephants.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Department of Animal Services (DAS) reports that City tax receipts could be impacted by this proposed regulation to an as-yet undetermined extent depending on choices made by the exhibitors based on the need to comply with any new or existing regulations in order to stage their performances in the City of Los Angeles.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

The DAS submitted reports dated May 11, 2012 and November 1, 2012 in response to Motion (Koretz - LaBonge) relative to banning the use of bull hooks and other implements in the handling of elephants at traveling circuses or exhibitions held in the City of Los Angeles. These reports are attached to the Council file and provide background information, history, timeline, and issues related to the various recommended options on this topic. The May 11, 2012 report was first considered, and continued, by the Personnel and Animal Welfare (PAW) Committee on June 5, 2012. A subsequent PAW Committee meeting took place on October 2, 2012. At this meeting, numerous representatives of animal welfare organizations spoke in favor of banning the use of bullhooks and other implements in the handling of elephants at traveling circuses or exhibitions held in the City of Los Angeles. Representatives of various groups representing the entertainment industry and veterinary and animal care professionals, as well as a Teamsters Union representative, spoke against the proposed ban.

At this meeting, the DAS was directed to conduct further analysis and research regarding the management and presence of elephants (and other wild animals) in traveling exhibitions and to report back to the PAW Committee with appropriate recommendations. As a result of this request, the DAS submitted a report dated October 18, 2012 with the Departments' findings and

recommendations to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners for consideration at its October 23, 2012 meeting. At that meeting, the Board unanimously recommended that the Mayor and City Council consider the various options presented to the Board as outlined in the November 1, 2012 DAS report.

During the discussion of this item at the November 20, 2012 PAW Committee meeting, the Committee considered the options contained in the November 1, 2012 DAS report. These options were presented by the DAS General Manager and a Commissioner representing the Board. The Committee then held an extensive public hearing comment period and considered comments made by the public and numerous members representing the animal welfare organizations who spoke, once again, in favor of the proposed ban. The Committee also considered comments by representatives of various groups representing the entertainment industry and veterinary and animal care professionals, as well as a Teamsters Union representative, who again spoke against the proposed ban and the recommendations contained in the November 1, 2012 DAS report.

After additional discussion on the pros and cons of the proposed ban and the economic effects of the options contained in the DAS report, the Committee recommended that Council approve options 1, 3 and 4 contained in said report. The Committee also directed the DAS to hold a meeting to try to reach a compromise with members representing the animal welfare community and the entertainment industry prior to scheduling this item for Council consideration. The Committee further requested that the DAS include representatives of Council Districts 3 and 5, as well as representatives of any interested Council District and appropriate City staff, at this meeting. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



| <u>MEMBER</u> | <u>VOTE</u> |
|---------------|-------------|
| KORETZ | YES |
| ALARCON | ABSENT |
| ZINE | YES |

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- Not Official Until Council Acts -

ADOPTED
* as amended
OCT 23 2013
see attached Motion
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL



AMENDING MOTION

I HEREBY MOVE that Council ADOPT the following recommendations relative to the use of exotic and wild animals, and/or elephants, in performances by traveling shows within the City of Los Angeles (Item No. 26, Council file No. 12-0186):

1. ADOPT Recommendation No. 2 of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee report.
2. EFFECTUATE/PHASE-IN the ban within 3 years.
3. RECEIVE AND FILE Recommendation Nos. 1 and 3 of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee report.

PRESENTED BY _____
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY _____
GILBERT CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

October 23, 2013

CF 12-0186

ADOPTED
OCT 23 2013
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL