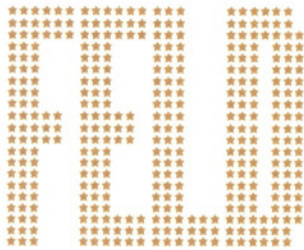


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ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

November 12, 2012

Brenda F. Barnette
General Manager
LA Animal Services
Administrative Office
221 N. Figueroa Street, 5th FL
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Department of Animal Services Report Regarding Elephants
(Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee)

Dear Ms. Barnette:

We were surprised and disappointed to learn that your Department has already prepared and forwarded a new report in response to the directive given by the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee at its October 2, 2012, meeting to conduct further analysis and research regarding the management and presence of elephants (and possibly other animals) in traveling exhibitions. It appears that while this new Animal Services Report does at least respond to some the criticisms of the previous Report, it is also another example of the Department taking a one-sided approach and choosing to ignore the serious issues raised by multiple witnesses before the PAW Committee. For that reason and others we strongly object to the Report and request that it be withdrawn.

As you know we were opposed to the original Report and its recommendation of a proposal to ban elephant guides (or bull hooks). Of course we are just as strongly opposed to the idea of banning elephants and/or other species from circuses and other traveling exhibitions as that would do directly what the original proposal sought to do indirectly: prohibit *Ringling Bros.* from continuing to perform in Los Angeles. Such a ban is unnecessary and would do nothing to enhance or increase animal welfare or protection while negatively impacting hundreds of jobs at Staples Center and elsewhere. Given the significant impact that such proposals might have on our circus and on hundreds, if not thousands, of local jobs, it is unjustifiable for your Department or the Board to proceed without making the slightest effort to allow for input and participation from those who are most directly impacted by these proposals, as well as those who are most knowledgeable about the issue of the care and training of elephants and other exotic animals. In fact it once again seems that the Department has actively sought to exclude them all from this process.

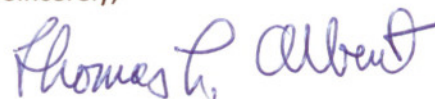
It is also troubling and objectionable that the new Report would reference an outside report related to your Department's inspections of Ringling Bros. at Staples Center this July given that we were not provided with or even told of the existence of that inspection report. As you know, we, through our local legal counsel, identified with specificity our objections to both the Department's choice of an outside consultant and the lack of reasonable notice. Our concerns about the ulterior motives and activist agenda of that person were borne out by the fact that we first became aware of his inspection report's existence when it was posted online by PETA.

This new Animal Services Report reflects many of the same problems as the original Report and those stem from the fact that no credible, independent organizations with expertise regarding elephants or other animals were consulted in connection with its preparation. By this we mean not only *Ringling Bros.* and other traveling exhibitors who regularly work in Los Angeles, but also groups who represent the veterinary and animal care professionals who are most knowledgeable about the care and needs of elephants and other exotic species, such as the following:

- American and California Veterinary Medical Associations
- Elephant Managers Association
- American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums (US)
- Zoological Association of America
- California Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- International Elephant Foundation
- California Department of Fish and Game
- National Animal Control Association
- American Humane Association
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters and other effected unions
- Outdoor Amusement Business Association

There is no justification for ignoring the men and women who's livelihoods will be directly impacted by the Departments recommendations, as well as such knowledgeable expert and relevant resources. This new Department Report is neither credible nor objective and is the result yet again of a one-sided approach in which only the voices of professional animal rights organizations are allowed to be heard. It should be withdrawn while the Department undertakes a more inclusive analysis process that is more consistent not only with the PAW Committee's directions but with the principles of fundamental due process and good government.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Albert

Vice President, Government Relations