



Teamsters Local Union No. 396

Package and General Utility Drivers

Affiliated with the

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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October 20, 2013

Councilmember Herb Wesson
Council President
Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring Street, Rm 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 1/21/14
Submitted in PDW Committee
Council File No: 12-0186
Item No.: 2
Deputy: Adam R. Lid

RE: Teamsters Union oppose Council Item Number 12-0186, proposal to ban elephants in circus

Dear Council President Wesson:

On behalf of Teamsters Local 396 and the working families that we represent, we would like to express our strong opposition to proposed action to ban elephants in traveling shows and exhibits (City Council Item Number 12-0186) that is placed on the City Council meeting agenda for the October 23, 2013. We do so for the following reasons:

- We support our Brothers and Sisters from Teamsters Local 688 that work hard to care for the elephants and other animals that perform with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. It is hard working Teamsters who spend their working lives travelling throughout the country caring for these animals. A proposal to ban a legitimate husbandry and worker safety tool is unnecessary and offensive. In addition, the ban on the usage of elephants in circuses would prevent Ringling Bros. and other elephant exhibitors from returning to Los Angeles. **This will have negative impact on the Teamsters Union members.**
- It is our understanding that the care that the *Ringling Bros.* organization provides exceeds the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) which regulates animals in zoos and circuses. Under the AWA, licensed exhibitors are subject to unannounced USDA inspections, and the agency has the authority to penalize licensees who violate the Act and/or regulations, including the seizure of animals where appropriate.

