

# UNITEHERE! LOCAL 11

October 21, 2013

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

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

**RE: UNITE HERE Local 11's Opposition to Council Item Number 12-0186, proposal to ban elephants in circus**

Dear Council President Wesson,

On behalf of the members of UNITE HERE Local 11 and their families, we would like to express our opposition to proposed action to ban elephants in circuses (City Council Item Number 12-0186.) We understand that there will be a discussion and a vote that takes place in the October 23rd City Council meeting.

If passed, hundreds of Local 11 members who work at Staples Center and their family members will lose health insurance coverage. Historically, July is the slowest month of the year for Staples Center workers. Because our members have to work a minimum of 80 hours a month to qualify for healthcare coverage, the amount of hours generated through the circus show is the reason that these members have health insurance coverage during the month of July.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus is a critical event for the Local 11 members who work at Staples Center. If this proposal passes, over 30,000 hours that our members work will be eliminated. Many, if not most, of our members at Staples Center will lose health insurance during the month of July of each year. In addition, about \$1 million dollars of direct wages and benefits that are generated through the circus shows will be lost.

In closing, we urge you to vote against the motion and reject this proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (213) 926-6067.

Sincerely,



Thomas Walsh  
President, UNITE HERE Local 11

CC: Los Angeles City Council Members

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