

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor have determined that the use of bullhooks and other implements to hit, and break the skin of, elephants in the context of training and controlling them for use in performances is a form of mistreatment of the animals; and

WHEREAS, in April 2014 the Council formally adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of bullhooks and other implements that could be used to control an elephant by inflicting pain or threatening to do so; and

WHEREAS, this prohibition becomes fully operational on January 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the City's action has placed Los Angeles in the forefront of a movement spreading across California and the nation that finds other local jurisdictions taking similar actions; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Zoo has adopted the national Association of Zoos and Aquarium's policy prohibiting the use of bullhooks on elephants; and

WHEREAS, Ringling Brothers-Barnum and Bailey Circus, the largest and most famous traveling circus still using performing elephants, responded to these actions in March 2015 by announcing its intention to end the use of elephants in its shows by 2018; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) has introduced Senate Bill (SB) 716, which proposes an amendment to California Penal Code Section 596.5 that would establish a ban on use of the bullhook, ankus, guide or pitchfork in the handling of elephants, effective January 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles should support SB 716 as an expansion of the City's policy that will ensure that this protection for elephants does not end at the city limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of SB 716 (Lara), which would prohibit the use of bullhooks and other similar implements to control and train elephants anywhere in the state of California.

PRESENTED BY Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY Dr. Bhuman

APR 14 2015

ORIGINAL