

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Scaringe, for Animal Defenders International

Date Submitted: 02/05/2020 01:26 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon to the esteemed members of the PAW Committee: In response to the new information posted late last evening (Feb. 4), ADI offers the following updates to our written testimony. - ADI supports the proposed prohibition on the exhibition of "Wild or Exotic Animals", or "Dangerous Animals" in a "Circus" or "Performing Animal Show". - ADI supports the proposed prohibition on the exhibition of "Wild or Exotic Animals", or "Dangerous Animals" at a house party or loud or unruly gathering - ADI supports the new language prohibiting public contact with "Dangerous Animals". - ADI remains concerned regarding certain vague, ambiguous language. For example, we would urge that all nonhuman primates be included, if not already, in the otherwise open-ended "Dangerous Animal" definition. As noted previously, there is much data demonstrating the animal welfare and public health and safety issues associated with the use of nonhuman primates in entertainment. We have cited that information in our prior written testimony, and are happy to resubmit it again, or provide additional data on this issue. - ADI also urges that offsite presentations or performances of "Dangerous Animals" be prohibited, consistent with the Motion this Committee and the full Council unanimously adopted almost 3 years ago. Over the years, ADI's support here has been buoyed by the City's assurances of meaningful oversight related to the several, limited exemptions. The permitting scheme for "Dangerous Animal" presentations or performances relies primarily on self-reporting, and is not consistent with the 2017 Motion. Parading a "Dangerous Animal" around on a leash or chain at a fundraiser, school, or other inappropriate, uncontrolled venue is both dangerous and antithetical to legitimate conservation purposes; portraying wild species this way amplifies already widespread threats to wild populations, fueling the exotic pet trade and trafficking. Referencing the related 2017 PAW Committee Report: "... the use of wild and exotic animals, particularly in circuses, has desensitized generations of people and taught our children that it is perfectly acceptable to treat wild and exotic animals as objects or toys. ... This use and misuse of wild and exotic animals for personal or public entertainment and financial gain has a long and unfortunate history. The practice has led to tremendous pain for these animals who often suffer from

loneliness, malnutrition and the overwhelming stress of lengthy confinements ... inhumane training ... If these animals are unable to express their normal behaviors, they can suffer from physical and mental trauma. This behavior impacts the welfare of these animals, which places the safety of the animal and the public at risk." We thank you for your work on this issue these many years – referencing the 2017 Motion: "Los Angeles has long been a leader in protecting wild and exotic animals ... It is time that the City of Los Angeles take action to make clear that exhibiting wild and exotic animals in such a way is no longer in line with our City's values." All my best, Christina Scaringe, General Counsel
Animal Defenders International www.ad-international.org

Communication from Public

Name: jackie navarro

Date Submitted: 02/05/2020 02:16 PM

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Comments for Public Posting: i am now changing to opposition of this ordinance based on new information that now our church programs, scout programs and educational birthdays may be in jeopardy