



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Support letter for draft ordinance 16-1357; prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement

1 message

Catherine Doyle <cdoyle@pawsweb.org>

Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 7:34 PM

To: councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.lee@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, "Hersch, David" <David.Hersch@lacity.org>, Justin Orenstein <justin.orenstein@lacity.org>, Clerk.CPS@lacity.org


Please find attached a letter of support from the Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) for draft ordinance 16-1357 to prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement.

For more than 35 years, PAWS has been providing sanctuary for rescued or retired wild animals, many from the entertainment industry. We operate three captive wildlife sanctuaries in California, including ARK 2000, a 2,300-acre natural habitat refuge where we care for elephants, big cats, and bears.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,
Catherine Doyle, M.S.
Director of Science, Research and Advocacy
Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)
cdoyle@pawsweb.org

www.PAWSweb.org

 **PAWS_support_exotic animal acts 2.13.2020.pdf**
216K

*The Nation's First
Elephant Sanctuary*



PAWS
PERFORMING ANIMAL
WELFARE SOCIETY

Founded in 1984
P R O T E C T I O N
E D U C A T I O N
A D V O C A C Y
S A N C T U A R Y
pawsweb.org

February 13, 2020

Councilmember David Ryu
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for draft ordinance 16-1357 to prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement

Dear Councilmember Ryu:

The Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) is pleased to support the proposed ordinance, as written, to prohibit the use of wild animals for house parties, circuses and other entertainment, and public contact with dangerous wild animals. PAWS thanks you for your leadership on this important effort.

PAWS was formed in 1984 to rescue and care for abused, neglected, or retired wild animals, many from the entertainment industry. We operate three captive wildlife sanctuaries in California, including ARK 2000, a 2,300-acre natural habitat refuge where we care for elephants, big cats and bears.

PAWS is recognized internationally for its expertise in the care and management of captive wildlife. PAWS President and Co-founder Ed Stewart serves on the Director's Advisory Committee on the Humane Care and Treatment of Wild Animals for the California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Advisory Committee for the Detroit Zoological Society's Center for Zoo Animal Welfare.

I personally have been involved with this ordinance since its inception in 2016. The ordinance includes stakeholder input and I urge the City Council to pass the ordinance as written. Any amendments at this time could allow exhibitors to game the system and once again create circus-like situations in which both wild animals and the public are at risk.

Based on decades of experience, PAWS has determined that it is impossible for a wild animal to live a healthy life when used as a party prop or made to perform for entertainment. The problems are many: the stress of travel, confinement in cramped cages and transport vehicles, abusive training, loud music and noises, the presence of spectators, human handling, and living conditions that fail to meet the animals' physical, psychological, and social needs.

Wild animals used for entertainment are not domesticated. They retain their natural instincts, which they may act on when threatened or frightened, or sometimes with no warning at all. Nevertheless, they are often displayed in close proximity to the public in unsafe conditions, putting the public and the animals in danger.

Allowing direct contact with dangerous wild animals is inhumane for the animals and unsafe for the public. Most people don't know that wild animals used for



ACCREDITED



P. O. Box 849

Galt, CA 95632

Phone: 209/745-2606

Fax: 209/745-1809

E-mail: info@pawsweb.org

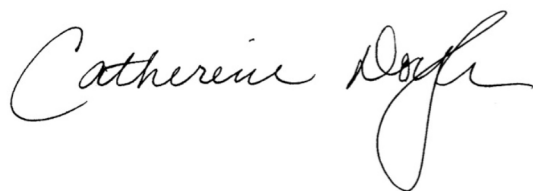
www.pawsweb.org

public interactions have been taken from their mothers shortly after birth so they can be hand-raised and controlled. The stress of early separation from their mothers and abusive or excessive handling leaves the young animals vulnerable to disease, including some that are transmissible to children and adults who handle them. In the U.S. people have been injured during interactions with dangerous wild animals, including many children.

Animal acts and the use of wild animals as a novelty at parties do not educate children or conserve species. Rather, they distort the public's perception of wild animals and, for some species, their imperiled status in the wild. Recent research suggests that seeing wild animals in an entertainment context can actually harm conservation efforts and promote wild animals as pets. (Several of the animals cared for at the PAWS sanctuaries – including big cats, bears and primates – were once someone's "pet.")

This ordinance is necessary to protect wild animals used for entertainment and exhibition in Los Angeles. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine Doyle, M.S.
Director of Science, Research & Advocacy
cdoyle@pawsweb.org

cc: Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nury Martinez
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember Curren D. Price
Councilmember Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
Councilmember Mike Bonin
Councilmember John Lee
Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember Jose Huizar
Councilmember Joe Buscaino



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: letter of opposition attached for 16-1357

2 messages

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 2:08 PM

To: Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jackie Navarro** <wildwonders@earthlink.net>

Date: Tue, Feb 11, 2020 at 2:05 PM

Subject: letter of opposition attached for 16-1357

To: <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, Wild Wonders <wildwonders@att.net>, Charlie Sammut <charlie@montereyzoo.org>, Kristi DeSpain <Kristi@zaa.org>, Alan Smith <alan@capitolgain.services>, Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>, <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, <David.ryu@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, Chenoweth, Athena <Athena.Chenoweth@lacity.org>, <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, Brenda Barnette <brenda.barnette@lacity.org>

Please accept this letter of opposition as a matter of public record for the city council hearing this ordinance draft. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this ordinance with you and the problems associated with it. Unfortunately this new draft puts all professional animal organizations and wildlife educators in a position of becoming serious collateral damage.

Thank you

Jackie Navarro

Director

Wild Wonders

www.wildwonders.org**LA ordinance 16-1357 - ZAA opposition 2020-02-10.pdf**

540K

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 7:48 AM

To: Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Charlie Sammut** <charlie@montereyzoo.org>

Date: Sun, Feb 16, 2020 at 8:33 AM

Subject: RE: letter of opposition attached for 16-1357

To: Jackie Navarro <wildwonders@earthlink.net>, <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, Kristi DeSpain <Kristi@zaa.org>, Alan Smith <alan@capitolgain.services>, Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>, <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, <David.ryu@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>,

<councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, Chenoweth, Athena <Athena.Chenoweth@lacity.org>, <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, Brenda Barnette <brenda.barnette@lacity.org>

Please accept this letter of opposition as a matter of public record for the city council hearing this ordinance's current draft. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this ordinance with you and the problems associated with it. Unfortunately this new draft puts all professional animal organizations and wildlife educators in a position of becoming serious collateral damage. It serves to accommodate the "bullying" tactics of those not even in your community while doing great harm to those who live and depend on your leadership within your community as well as the children who benefit from them. PLEASE, see the hidden agenda behind those bullying you.

I realize you are exhausted from dealing with this issue and tired of reading these responses, but Please, I beg that you read one more... You can still do the right thing with very little effort while accomplishing exactly what you hoped and all could support with this ordinance.

Thank you

Charlie Sammut

From the desk of

Charlie Sammut ~ President, Monterey Zoological ~ Vision Quest Ranch

400 River Road Salinas, CA 93908

24/7 cell: (831) 809-2919

(831) 455-3180 (800) 228-7382 FAX (831)455-1902

www.visionquestranch.com ~ www.montereyzoo.org

 **Monterey Zoo Opposition to LA Ordinance 16-1357 2-2020.pdf**
762K



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

February 10, 2020

Honorable David E. Ryu
Los Angeles City Council, District 4
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Ordinance 16-1357 opposition

Dear Council Member Ryu,

The Zoological Association of America (ZAA) is opposed to several of the new provisions added to Ordinance 16-1357 regarding display of exotic animals by the Personnel & Animal Welfare Committee prior to its adoption last week.

ZAA is a zoological trade organization that represents professionally managed zoos, aquariums, conservation breeding facilities, wildlife conservation ranches, and education-based animal ambassador programs. ZAA also focuses on educating the next generation of wildlife management professionals around the globe; providing training in the field of husbandry, best management practices, and veterinary care. In addition, ZAA provides its members an accreditation opportunity predicated on promoting the highest standards of animal welfare, as well as public and staff safety. ZAA maintains that its accreditation criteria meet or exceed all accepted industry standards and federal requirements.

Since late in 2016 the PAW Committee of Council has been working to craft an ordinance which restricts citizens from using exotic animals essentially as decorations for various party events, while protecting educational programs that are so critical to animal conservation and zoological goals. Due to the population base and the film industry in southern-California, a large number of professionally licensed and regularly inspected businesses fulfill expectations in this area, providing these educational experiences.

The PAW committee went through several drafts over the last few years trying to establish appropriate parameters for permitting wildlife exhibitions. Before the meeting last week, it appeared that the balance among groups with opposed interests had been achieved. At the meeting, however, new language surfaced and was adopted by the PAW committee without any apparent consultation with stakeholders, perhaps due to the retirement of staff counsel who had gained applicable knowledge from the affected professional industries.

To be specific, the current draft now includes all animals. This once again removes the use of many animals vital to the professional conservation work being accomplished by many in your city. This will also make the 10 day notice period difficult if even possible for the permitting function.

A section was added last week to prohibit the presence of animals at events serving alcoholic beverages or entertaining with amplified music. It is currently common practice for functions in many venues to offer guests a glass of wine or alcoholic beverage with dinner throughout an event, especially the higher end events. This has not been a problem to date. Amplification of music is probably an ingredient of all events, fundraisers, conservation efforts, etc..., again an issue that professional providers control to accommodate the specific needs of the animal.

Finally, the exemption from all of the above for events related to the city's interests denotes an obvious and unfair bias that begs one to question why. If in fact this ordinance is aimed at true animal welfare and public safety, it should be enforced for all.

We have some suggestions that would achieve what council wants while still protecting our education programs. We feel:

- The alcohol and amplified music clause should be struck as it encompasses many of our conservation education events (conservation fundraisers, festivals, scout programs, museum benefits, etc as well as city related events)
- Placing "dangerous animals" back in for more restrictive permitting (as was discussed with previous counsel and animal services) accomplishes what city council intended ~ to prevent giraffes and elephants being brought to narrow streets, blocking traffic for house parties. This language will still protect the animal organizations providing conservation based and educational services with small exotics/non dangerous species. (We provided a definition of dangerous animal as well as a species list previously to the assistant city attorney, Dov Lesel and Animal Services.)
- Remove or redefine "the definition of exhibition being for the benefit of a live-audience. To the letter, such wording defines every activity accomplished by any education/conservation facility, on and off premises.

We once again ask that the authors of this ordinance grant our representatives an audience to discuss achieving what we believe the city is truly trying to achieve with this ordinance. Please allow us to participate in arriving at language that will not be detrimental to true conservation, education and animal welfare.

Respectfully,



John Seyjagat
Executive Director
Zoological Association of America

cc:

- Council Member Gil Cedillo, District 1
- Council Member Paul Krekorian, District 2
- Council Member Bob Blumenfield, District 3
- Council Member Paul Koretz, District 5
- Council Member Nury Martinez, District 6
- Council Member Monica Rodriguez, District 7
- Council Member Marqueece Harris-Dawson, District 8
- Council Member Curren D. Price, Jr., District 9
- Council Member Herb J. Wesson, Jr., District 10

Council Member Mike Bonin, District 11
Council Member John Lee, District 12
Council Member Mitch O'Farrell, District 13
Council Member Jose Huizar, District 14
Council Member Joe Buscaino, District 15
Mike Feuer, City Attorney
David Michaelson, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Valerie Flores, Senior Assistant City Attorney

**MONTEREY
ZOOLOGICAL**

Vision Quest Ranch
400 River Road
Salinas, CA 93908
(800)228-7382
info@montereyzoo.org



Honorable David E. Ryu
Los Angeles City Council, District 4
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 15, 2020

Board of Directors:

Charlie Sammut, President
Bart Walker, Board Chair
Vickey Overstreet, CFO
Darlene Geekie, Secretary
Justin Bond, Director
Cheryl Marquez, Director
Mike Eremeyeff, Director
Steve Flaherty, Director
Rob Dicely, Director
Kristine Perham, Director

Re: Ordinance 16-1357 opposition

Dear Council Members,

Monterey Zoo is a brand new zoological property located in Monterey County California, servicing the many underprivileged schools and children that will never have the resources to travel and benefit from the closest neighboring zoo. Although it might seem as though your ordinance will have no impact on our zoo or life, in fact, the entire zoological community as well as all dedicated and professional education/conservation based businesses across the country will be unintentionally/negatively impacted by your ordinance. For that reason, I would ask that this letter be accepted in opposition to Ord. 16-1357 as currently authored and made matter of record to be added to any studies and/or reports pertaining to the matter.

Sadly, you came so very close to an ordinance that would not only accomplish its true intent but not harm the many established businesses, citizens and children who benefit from the very programs you are harming and possibly shutting down. For certain, you will harm their income and ability to support the many efforts they contribute to. All due to the clearly transparent "bullying tactics" you are experiencing by extremist activist groups today. Tactics you have not even begun to see the last of when those organizations soon attack your city for not enforcing such an ordinance "to the letter" vs "the spirit" of its intent. A letter base upon "their" interpretation! They are implementing such tactics in many places across the country, with your city becoming its next victim.

I personally participated in reviewing your proposed ordinance and helping author the very minor requested edits that would enable 16-1357 to see support by all. To learn yesterday that those edits are not even being considered for reasons of "not wanting to deal with this issue or the pressure of extremist groups any longer" was frightening for it sends a message to all extremist groups that their bullying works! Further, several representatives of the professional education/conservation industries worked with several of you for a long time, arriving at language that all would support. To have that language removed in the final hour giving no time for further discussion again defines a deceptive and unjust system that caters to extremist philosophy vs true science and facts.

www.montereyzoo.org

Monterey Zoo is a
501(c)(3) non-profit
charity - est. Dec. 2011
Tax ID # 26-0391615

Monterey zoo hosts an annual fundraising event that accounts for a great deal of our support for our animals and youth programs. We have hosted this event for twenty years. It is a very high end gala that includes fine dining, fine wine, entertainment, a very educational video presentation, and best of all, animals. This event sells out months prior to all local community and business leaders as well as several California State political

leaders. It has become an evening most do not want to miss. An ordinance written as 16-1357 would in fact bring an end to that event. You see Mr. Ryu, the overhead for that event is greatly covered by our wine sponsors. Their wine is a large part of our evening's gift to our sponsors as well as the wine makers contribution to the zoo and the community. The fine wine is largely a part of what makes it a formal black-tie affair as spectacular and renown as it is in our community.

EVERY ZOO hosts such events Mr. Ryu, as does every large non-profit organization raising funds and awareness for every human illness, children's organization, political campaign, etc.... Every school, youth group and senior care group does the same. I only last month co-sponsored a very similar~ formal dinner for St.Judes Children Hospital that was the exact same format as ours. You have attended these events Mr. Ryu, for many reasons and organizations ~ probably even for your own political campaign events. Formal events of this nature accomplish the MOST for the organization hosting it. Punishing those who raise similar funds and awareness for animals is unjust is unfair. The serving of such beverages does not make those hosting or coordinating these fundraisers any less caring or responsible. In fact, it is just the opposite. The requested edits seemed like such a minor request when all other language in the ordinance still gives the city the complete ability to evaluate and determine just what kind of gathering an event truly is.

Finally, our only other edit simply and more clearly defined the animals to be effect in the same fashion everywhere through the ordinance, again, still giving the city the complete control and ability to evaluate and not permit the true targets of the ordinance.

So PLEASE, I ask you and all the council members, do not adopt this ordinance as currently authored because of the bullying and unjust reasons you are about to do so. PLEASE, give the very community businesses, citizens and children your seat represents, the same concern you are giving those whose bulling agenda is far more reaching than you might be aware of. **Please, delay the vote on this matter and reconsider our requested minor amendments. What we are asking will protect both the ordinance, the city as well as the support so many businesses, employees, animals and industries in the long run, while still giving the city complete control of the true intent of Ord.16-1357.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Sammut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Charlie Sammut

Founding Director/President, Monterey Zoological



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Opposition to Proposed ordinance #16-1357

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 7:49 AM

To: Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alan Smith** <alan@capitolgain.services>

Date: Sun, Feb 16, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Subject: Opposition to Proposed ordinance #16-1357

To: councilmember.martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>Cc: CityClerk@lacity.org <CityClerk@lacity.org>, David.ryu@lacity.org <David.ryu@lacity.org>, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org <councilmember.huizar@lacity.org>, councilmember.lee@lacity.org <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, councilmember.price@lacity.org <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, paul.koretz@lacity.org <paul.koretz@lacity.org>

Please find attached a letter from John Seyjagat, Executive Director of the Zoological Association of America, detailing opposition to the proposed exotic animal ordinance to be considered this week in City Council.

Capitol Gain Advisors, Ltd.
Alan B Smith
[506 N Parkview Ave](mailto:alan@capitolgain.services)
[Bexley, OH 43209](mailto:alan@capitolgain.services)
alan@capitolgain.services
(202) 630-1181

 **LA Seyjagat letter.docx**
204K



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA

Honorable Nury Martinez, President
Council of the City of Los Angeles
City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Room 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 15, 2020

Dear President Martinez:

The Zoological Association of America (ZAA) is opposed to several of the new provisions added to Ordinance 16-1357 regarding display of exotic animals by the Personnel & Animal Welfare Committee prior to its adoption last week.

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especially the higher end events. This has not been a problem to date. Amplification of music is probably an ingredient of all events, fundraisers, conservation efforts, etc..., again an issue that professional providers control to accommodate the specific needs of the animal.

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We once again ask that the authors of this ordinance grant our representatives an audience to discuss achieving what we believe the city is truly trying to achieve with this ordinance. Please allow us to participate in arriving at language that will not be detrimental to true conservation, education and animal welfare.

Respectfully,



John Seyjagat
Executive Director
Zoological Association of America
(443) 392-5897
john@zaa.org