



April 14, 2017

Dear Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare,

RE: Opposition to Exotic Animal Ban #16-135 - Please include this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to this issue.

My name is Tamara Reynolds, and I am writing to assert my opposition to the ban of exotic animals, agenda item 16-1357.

While I understand perfectly well that many well-meaning individuals are trying to have an impact on animals interacting with people in public out of fear of mistreatment, they are being misled. It is imperative to understand and be educated about the lives that these animals have in reality. We are animal people, animal lovers and we have the knowledge to be able to give our animals the best care available. We are regulated, permitted and licensed by multiple organizations. We are also monitored while on set or in public situations.

Sharing the animals with the public is not only enjoyable for the people lucky enough to meet them, it is also enjoyable for the animals. Traveling and being exposed to new environments provides the animals with endless mental stimulation and socialization. These animals truly benefits just as much as the people do when meeting them.

The opinions of a few people who think its "mean" or "cruel" to own and work with animals have and will skew the data to support their own agenda. There are bad people in this world, but not all animal trainers are automatically bad and abusive opportunists. We feel it is important to educate the public so that the next generation will also be as concerned about animal welfare and conservation.
I OPPOSE the ordinance, as written.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Tamara Reynolds
Animal Trainer
Gentle Jungle, Inc.