



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Fwd: Performing Animal Ban, Item #16-1357

1 message

Buteo007@aol.com <Buteo007@aol.com>
To: Adam.lid@lacity.org

Wed, Apr 19, 2017 at 5:48 PM

Good afternoon,
May I please request that the following letter be made public record?
I truly appreciate it.
Sincerely, Ken Kawata

From: Buteo007@aol.com
To: Councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.bumenfield@lacity.org, David.ryu@lacity.org, Paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org
Sent: 4/3/2017 4:43:26 P.M. Mountain Daylight Time
Subj: Performing Animal Ban, Item #16-1357

Date: 3 April 2017

Re: Performing Animal Ban Item #16-1357

To: Los Angeles City Council Members:

Councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.bumenfield@lacity.org, David.ryu@lacity.org, Paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

Dear Honorable Los Angeles City Council Members:

The word has reached me that the City of Los Angeles is moving forward with a ban on all performing "wild and exotic " animals in the City, going before the Personal and Animal Welfare Committee on 5 April. It is my impression that this issue has been brought up by the campaign by certain animal advocacy groups. As a concerned citizen of this country I am compelled to comment on the Ban. As a retired zoo professional who watched wild and exotic animal performances over the decades, I believe I am qualified to speak on the subject. The heart of the matter cuts into the core of democracy, upon which this country stands.

Circuses and others who exhibit performing animals have been an American tradition and cultural heritage for centuries, and wild and exotic animals have been an essential part of this heritage. In recent years, however, vocal and news-media savvy minority groups have been appealing to legislators and the public. They claim that such performing animal operators mistreat animals. Let me point out that the alleged cruelty to animals is a perceived myth with little factual basis. To my dismay, well-meaning but ill-informed populace becomes persuaded by this emotionally inflammable myth. Many, if not all, persons accusing performing animal operators *have not even seen animal acts*. This is a typical example that intellect, reason and logic become the victims when emotionalism takes the driver's seat in the public debate.

I respectfully request that you consider this: For those who make a living using animals, they are a valuable asset. Reasonably-minded animal performers do not mistreat such an asset. Needless to say they are established organizations by humans, and just as there are superbly operated schools and badly managed ones, there can be substandard animal handlers. They should be dealt with individually. To say the least, sweeping generalization to accuse all wild and exotic animal performance operators is an over-kill.

At this point, it must be noted that there already are procedures for issuances of animal facility standards. World-wide there is CITES, *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, an agreement to ensure that trades of wildlife between nations do not threaten their survival. As for federal laws there are ESA, *Endangered Species Act* and AWA, *Animal Welfare Act* which requires that standards of care be provided for animals kept for purposes including exhibition for the public.

A ban on wild and exotic animal performance, promoted by a vocal minority but not by the silent majority of citizens, inevitably affects the fabric of our democratic society. It is the citizens' right to appreciate wild and exotic animal exhibits. A ban will enable the vocal minority to gain control over animal-related issues. As you are aware they succeeded in closing down the Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Baily Circus. Once such a group acquires a foothold in the legislative arena, they will expand their basis to ban not only wild and exotic animal performances but also practices in livestock industry and use of lab animals in the necessary medical research. Please do NOT allow such groups to deny the above-mentioned citizens' right; a ban will signal a step to chip away at the foundation of American democracy.

Withdrawal of Item #16-1357 means that the City of Los Angeles will set a model of municipal legislation to the entire nation, that you have not only ensured the citizen's fundamental right, but also helped to secure the future for other animal-related activities. Thank you very much for taking time to read my concern.

Sincerely yours,

Ken Kawata
501 N. Roadrunner Pkwy #1902, Las Cruces, NM 88011, USA
Member, Circus Fans Association of America; Circus Historical Society