



Adam Lid &lt;adam.lid@lacity.org&gt;

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## Proposed Wild animal exhibition ban

1 message

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**Tracy Kelly** <traytrav@me.com>

Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 4:31 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org, Paul.koretz@lacity.org

I the undersigned animal care specialist, with 23 years experience, strongly oppose any ban presented by the Los Angeles City Council pertaining to the exhibition of wild and exotic animals. We represent the true animal experts, as proven by our extensive years of service working directly with exotic animals and our individual and collective work in management, education, outreach and conservation programs.

Any ban/restriction of exhibiting or working with exotic animals is unnecessary. Please do not waste legislators time and taxpayer money when there are already laws in place to prevent animal cruelty. The animal venues that exhibit exotic animals are strictly regulated through the USDA/APHIS and the Animal Welfare Act, as well as California Fish & Wildlife Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The American Humane Association regulates all filming from beginning to end. They not only have regularly scheduled inspections at their facilities, at on site projects, but also are open to 24 hour surprise inspections while traveling, as they must submit a travel itinerary to the USDA for all overnight stays.

Any "trick" you may see an animal perform is an example of a natural behavior, brought about with positive reinforcement. No animals are forced to perform for any reason. If an animal is stressed or refuses to perform they are immediately removed from the situation.

With children becoming more disconnected from nature and more connected to digital and electronic devises, the programs we provide may be their only connection to wildlife and nature.

As of the beginning of May there will no longer be traveling circuses coming into the city of Los Angeles, as the Shrine Circus decided to remove animals from their shows in 2014 and Ringling Brothers will no longer be touring. To propose an ordinance addressing the circus is no longer pertinent.

There are more than 25 licensed and regulated organizations that conduct business with exotic animals in the city of Los Angeles. These organizations, their employees and the public that benefits from the programs they provide, will suffer if this ban is passed. These organizations together conduct outreach and educational programs and exhibits to more than 5 million people per year, as a conservative estimate!

Please acknowledge the expertise of the undersigned animal care specialists charged with the care and well being of exotic animals. Passing a ban that would limit their ability to reach and educate the public would be detrimental to the conservation message they all play a part in.

Please include this letter in the public records.

Thank you,

Tracy Kelly, Animal Trainer, 18year Union member, Teamsters Local 399

Tracy Kelly  
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