



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

RE: OPPOSITION to Agenda item 16-1357 please post

1 message

lesliegordon765 <lesliegordon765@yahoo.com>

Mon, Apr 24, 2017 at 10:13 PM

To: "Adam.Lid@lacity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>, "David.ryu@lacity.org" <David.ryu@lacity.org>, "Paul.koretz@lacity.org" <Paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org" <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "councilmember.martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.wesson@lacity.org" <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, "councilmember.englander@lacity.org" <councilmember.englander@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>

I wrote a more succinct message below than my previous, that I hope to present to the Council tomorrow. Please post instead, if possible. -Leslie Gordon

Thank you for taking the time to hear me today. My name is Leslie and I am an 18-year professional wildlife educator and animal keeper. I have worked at nearly every major wildlife organization in town either as a keeper, volunteer, enrichment specialist or as an associate in programming for events.

I am asking you to say, no, but thank you to this particular ordinance and let's work hard to find a way to protect animal welfare that doesn't hurt good working programs.

1. It would be more effective to spend energy and resources enforcing current anti-cruelty laws, reforming the local permit process to give it more teeth, and include professional standards of care written with the input of professional biologists and husbandry experts.
2. What constitutes "reputable", "legitimate" or "entertainment"? The language being used here is too broad, and could easily ensnare smaller and even larger organizations that are responsible, but not AZA accredited. Accreditation is at times an expensive, cumbersome process, especially for smaller organizations. Our own City Standards could resolve that issue.
3. Further, the somewhat emotional language seems to suggest that all training or interaction with humans is innately harmful, when in, fact, both are widely considered an integral part of enrichment and basic health care- by including psychological well-being. I refer you to the AZA standards of care available on their website.
4. Lastly, many reputable organizations use birthday parties to keep themselves afloat by providing funding for animal care. They are, many times a child's first and most inspiring introduction to wildlife. If parents cannot easily provide the wildlife interactions they crave for their child, they are far more likely to attempt to keep an exotic pet

themselves. Many of these organizations routinely rescue wildlife and their demise would increase the number of homeless pets in So. Cal.

I am asking you to say, no, but thank you to this particular ordinance and let's work hard to find a way to protect animal welfare that doesn't hurt good working programs.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone