



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Opposition to Agenda Item #16-1357

1 message

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

Sun, Apr 16, 2017 at 6:20 PM

From: Matt J. McGee, publisher
Falling Star Magazine

To the esteemed members of the Los Angeles City Council,

My name is Matt J. McGee, and I am the editor and publisher of Falling Star Magazine, which serves the Los Angeles area. I am writing specifically in regards to Agenda Item #16-1357, regarding the ban of exotic or 'wild' animals for educational purposes.

My sister Kris is a long-time instructor at America's Teaching Zoo, formerly known as the Exotic Animal Training Management program in Moorpark, CA. While I'm aware this is just outside your district, I want you and the council to know that the education garnered from a facility such as ATZ is not only invaluable to the students who receive the ability to bridge the gap of knowledge and understanding between humans and the wildlife that surround us, but their work reaches far beyond the compound's well-maintained enclosures. It teaches insight, knowledge, and respect for the wildlife community around us. I have been one of those recipients.

America's Teaching Zoo hasn't only been my sister's life work, but thru her it has provided me a deep insight into wild animal habitat and behavior. I've passed this knowledge on to countless friends and strangers who might otherwise recoil at the sight or sound of a member of our wildlife community. A little understanding goes a long way, and I've been fortunate to provide that understanding. I like to say that, when my sister completed her education at ATZ, we both received a degree.

Agenda item 16-1357 would prevent future generations from receiving the kind of insight and understanding my sister has taught to thousands of school kids and the general public. This item would also prevent the kind of education I received secondhand by restricting or ending the work of those who have the ability to teach residents about our wildlife community.

I respectfully request that Agenda Item 16-1357 be removed from the Council's consideration. Furthermore, I would like to request that this e-mail be included into public record in any and all hearings, studies, and reports regarding this issue. Item 16-1357 serves not to inform the public about our wildlife community, but rather prevents those who possess the insight and respect of wildlife from educating us all.

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