



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Agenda item #16-1357

1 message

Katie s <kannscriven@gmail.com>

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

""Prohibition on the Exhibit of Wild or Exotic Animals for Entertainment or Amusement" agenda item #16-1357.

Dear LA City Council Member,

This bill is aimed at banning exotic animals for ALL use other than AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) facilities, this means that MANY credible organizations will NOT be able to:

- Host outreach events that reach school children, hospitals, veterans, and/or underprivileged youth.
- Entertaining public with informational shows and/or presentations at their facility.

I am an alumni of America's Teaching Zoo, the Zoo's students are inspired every day through the presentations, outreach, and interactions they have with the public on a daily basis here at America's Teaching Zoo. Upon graduating from the Exotic Animal Training and Management program they are looking to become educators, presenters, zookeepers, conservationists, veterinarians, but more importantly to become a bridge between wildlife and the public. With a bill like this in place we will see the END of outreach and wildlife education organizations in L.A. County and that's just the start! I have had first hand experience with many both AZA accredited and not accredited Zoo's both inside and outside LA county. They both have standards that they are required by law that they have to meet. All of these facilities have big hearts and big goals for caring for amazing species that need the world's help.

You must understand the harm that this Bill would do if it were passed. It would close down beautiful sanctuaries for animals that have been rescued. It would be the end of your children and underprivileged youth getting great educational programming in their schools. To know these species of animals from around the world and our own backyards means to love them and their environments. These zoos help children and adults alike to be advocates for environmental protection of the world and their own backyard. I have seen first hand the wonder in children when they see a macaw parrot fly over head and learn that that parrot Kiley used to be in a unsuitable home but now is happy and healthy with lots of parrot friends in an environment that stimulates her natural environment. These children learn to protect and care for our environment and endangered species worldwide. They learn that the world is at their fingertips right in front of them and not just filtered through a the technology of a screen.

I have seen the disabled and disenfranchised be reached and inspired to do more and be more.

America's Teaching Zoo not only teaches its students to work in the animal care field, of which it is only two in the country; it provides an affordable college experience to pursue your dreams. It teaches its students and visitors to be animal and environmental ambassadors. It is the place that makes dreams into realities, it has changed me and it will change you and your children if you visit.

Thank you for your time,
Katherine Folas