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April 19, 2017

Dear Committee on Personnel and Animal Welfare,

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to agenda item #16-1357. Please include this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and or reports pertaining to the report.

My name is Steve Martin and I am the owner of Steve Martin's Working WildLife and for decades I have been training animals, domestic and exotic, in the entertainment business. I am currently listed in the local 399 union as a wild animal trainer. I have spent my life interacting with and caring for animals and I would like to **OPPOSE** this agenda item.

The public is widely misinformed about animals in the outreach and entertainment business. Extremists have spent millions of nonprofit dollars flooding the public with stories and lies to assert that these animals are mistreated or unhappy. On the contrary, our trainers dedicate their lives to these animals and are on call 24/7 to care for them. Our specially trained animals have to receive impeccable care in order for us to do what we do.

If you won't take my word for it, please ask one of the several different entities that monitor our behavior towards our animals and our care for our animals on a regular basis. Our facility is regularly inspected by USDA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Fish and Wildlife Service in addition to receiving permits from the city. When at work, we are joined everyday by a representative from the American Humane Association, or a like-minded organization, to observe the action the animal is being asked to do, and to record any and all pertinent information about the animal or their trainers. We welcome these organizations inspecting our property, observing our animals, and observing us as trainers. We all have the same goal: to make sure the animal is healthy, happy, well cared for, and safe. We are also training these animals so they can work and be rewarded and we can make a living. Our trainers dedicate their lives to these animals.

Agenda item #16-1357 does nothing for the well being of an animal, it simply denies people from experiencing well-trained ambassador animals. By supporting this agenda you will create a community where animals are out of sight, out of mind. Outreach through public or private events enable ambassador animals to share a **once in a lifetime** experience for many people. Please consider what you do when you ban these animals from having any sort of interaction with the public, nobody wins.

Sincerely,
Steve Martin
Owner
Steve Martin's Working Wildlife
Local 399 Member