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OPPOSITION to Agenda item 16-1357

1 message

Ilana Gustafson <iheartsippie@gmail.com>

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

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OPPOSITION to Agenda item 16-1357

Summary: Please say **NO** (but thank you) to **16-1357**- And instead consider supporting animal abuse or neglect laws, a more practical system of permitting wild animals, establishing professional standards that fit all professionals.

Greetings,

I am a professional Education Manager working at the Natural History Museum of LA County. While I can not speak on their behalf, I want to be clear that the Museum could be one of the organizations negatively impacted by this ordinance. While they are a legitimate educational facility, the Museum is not AZA accredited, nor is it practical for them to become so.

The language of this ordinance is too broad, too emotional, and too unscientific to be useful, and my concern is that the ultimate goal is toward a ban of all wild exotics in captivity- an extremely dramatic and unfounded action. People abuse their dogs, yet a motion to ban dog ownership or dog walking would be absurd. If people are abusing their exotic animals, we should be working on enforcement of permits and cruelty laws.

It is unclear who would determine if a display was "legitimate", and it appears that could be left wide open to interpretation. Even the Museum's popular Live Animal Program presentations that have entertained audiences, while educating them about wildlife, for more than 2 decades could be considered in violation with such broad language. I have seen many times over when confusing or unspecific legislation is put forth, the people charged with enforcement will be unclear on what to do when, such as when an Animal Control officer recently tried to confiscate a colleague's entire collection of neonate turtles on display at a Museum event, citing the ban of sales on neonate slider turtles. They were not for sale, and were a different species. After showing him the legislation and allowing him to read it, he backed down and the display continued.

Further, the language in the community statement leads me to believe the individuals writing may not have a complete understanding of animal behavior and what a professional interaction might look like. Example: “treated inhumanely in an effort to coax tricks and human interaction causing physical and mental trauma putting the animal and public at potential risk” is a very subjective statement that, based on the perspective or the agenda of the individual could be applied to just about any “working” animal in Los Angeles from Filming, Museum exhibitions and events that welcome local herpetological or other animal club exhibitions, community/nature center animal shows, to dog trainers leading classes in the park.

Enforcement of professional standards would be a more appropriate way to approach the issue of individuals who abusive, and I would be glad to assist the committee in determining what those standards might look like.

Please consider supporting animal abuse or neglect laws, a more practical system of permitting wild animals, establishing professional standards that fit all professionals, and simply say **NO** (but thank you) **to 16-1357**.

Ilana Gustafson

Professional Museum Educator/ Manager

Language of the Proposed Ordinance: The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council moves to support the City Council’s request that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement, including circuses, other wild or exotic animal shows, and rentals for house parties, with the exception for accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, legitimate filming purposes, research facilities and legitimate conservation/education related programs or presentations. MOTION Whereas the misuse of wild and exotic animals for personal or public entertainment and financial gain in circuses has desensitized humankind to treat wild and exotic animals as objects or toys and Whereas wild and exotic animals hold instinctive social and physical needs indicative to their species and Whereas often times these animals are treated inhumanely in an effort to coax tricks and human interaction causing physical and mental trauma putting the animal and public at potential risk and Whereas Los Angeles continues to be a leader in the protection of wild and exotic animals Therefore Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council moves to support the City Council’s request that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement, including circuses, other wild or exotic animal shows, and rentals for house parties, with the exception for accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, legitimate filming purposes, research facilities and legitimate conservation/education related programs or presentations.