



Adam Lid &lt;adam.lid@lacity.org&gt;

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**Regarding Concern on Agenda Item 16-1357**

1 message

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**Wendi Gladstone** <wchappyrock1@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 25, 2017 at 7:30 AM

To: david.ryu@lacity.org, adam.lid@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, john.white@lacity.org

Dear Sirs,

Please include this letter into public record regarding any vote, hearing, studies, and/or reports pertaining to the issue of Agenda Item 16-1357.

As a life long educator, I am requesting that you look carefully at the wording of Agenda Item 16-1357. It can be interpreted to encompass bonafide nonprofit organizations and others who promote the education and conservation regarding wild and/or exotic animals.

Where as we all appreciate and understand what this Item is attempting to do, stop people from exploiting and abusing animals, we see a down side as well, as it is currently stated.

This ban would greatly impair members of many environmental education programs, including the Southwestern Herpetologists Society and Placerita Canyon Natural Area and other legitimate docent groups who respectfully share live animal species with the people they educate, children as well as adults.

Many bonafide non profit organization teach our youth and general public about these animals and their importance in the entire scheme of things. ***It is only through education can we make the necessary changes, alleviating fear and promoting the care of all animals world wide.***

These entities, docents groups & non profits in environmental education and rehabilitation, and even classrooms and college programs legitimately use live animals to teach about the critters and birds that can be found in the surrounding ecosystems, from the mountains to the sea.

If this Agenda item passes, it appears that it would prohibit these groups from doing their community outreach at schools, parks and events sponsored by groups like the Natural History Museum, the National Park Service, and at Open Houses and events surrounding **Earth Day**, a nation wide day of recognition of the importance of our natural world.

As an educator for over 35 years I know first hand that allowing a child to learn about and touch a snake or a turtle actually changes his or her life. They go from a place of fear, misunderstanding or curiosity to a place of appreciation and understanding.

Please consider a rewrite or at least an addendum to this Item **clearly stating** teaching organizations/non profits be exempt from this ban.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Wendi Gladstone, Educator