



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

Please include this letter into public record to be included in any hearing, studies, and/or reports pertaining to this issue.

The Bill entitled "Prohibition on the Exhibit of Wild or Exotic Animals for Entertainment or Amusement" if passed would seriously hurt our children, educators, and conservationists by severely limiting opportunities to educate and touch the hearts of the public to care for and about our wildlife.

I have been an elementary teacher for almost 20 years and the presentations which are given by the smaller rescues at parks and recreational facilities or in the classrooms, where children and adults can attend presentations in small groups, are much more valuable than anywhere else including a zoo.

They learn about our local wildlife like hawks, bunnies, opossums, raccoons, snakes, squirrels, owls, etc. and get to see them being handled by the wildlife expert. They also learn about mountain lions, bears, deer and other larger animals that live in the area.

Because of the small group nature of the presentation, everyone is involved by being able to ask questions. They leave with information that helps them to not fear but respect each animal for its place in our world. They also learn safety, the importance of knowing what to do in case a snake or other animal is encountered in their backyard or on a hike. Information which they do not learn by a visit to a zoo where the animals are barely visible to them and where there are so many people and distractions that it turns out not to be a very good learning or teaching experience.

Another advantage to park presentations and school presentations is that the presentations are free. Unfortunately, working in the public schools, I know that most parents cannot afford to take their children to zoos even with the lower family discounted tickets. The children and adults just don't have the opportunity to go to zoos. Many grow up fearing even dogs and cats.

The big picture is that this diminished access to information and experiences with our wildlife will lead to a lack of knowledge and disinterest and will severely impact conservation in a very negative way. We cannot let this happen. These experiences people have as children many times inspire and lead them to careers in park service, the environment, animal medicine, biology and ecology. So many good fields. Even teaching!

Again, please include this letter into public record as mentioned above. Thank you.
Denise Lafey

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail