



Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

REGARDING CITY COUNCIL FILE #17-0453

Katrina Knudson <ms.katrina.knudson@gmail.com>
To: eric.villanueva@lacity.org

Sat, Jul 21, 2018 at 6:32 PM

Dear Mr. Villanueva:

I have been a major donor to the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens for the past four years. In addition to my support for the zoo, I have also volunteered with a variety of animal causes outside the zoo for the past twenty years or more.

I am writing to urge you NOT to support the Motion to Release Billy the Elephant to Sanctuary. I have seen the deep connection Billy has with his dedicated staff at the LA Zoo, and I have witnessed firsthand the tender and thoughtful care he receives in his home there. Remaining in his loving home at The Los Angeles Zoo will allow Billy to continue to receive the best care possible, in an environment that was specifically designed with his health and happiness in mind. The heated, padded floors of his barn and soft sand of his six-acre enclosure ensure that he can walk comfortably and naturally, protecting the delicate bones of his feet. The trees, puzzle boxes, water features, and contact with his keepers provide stimulation and enrichment throughout the day. And the close proximity of a female herd allows him daily contact and communication with other elephants while still maintaining his own space, just as bachelor elephants do in the wild. Billy was orphaned in Malaysia at the age of four; Tina, Jewel, Shaunzi and his keepers are his family.

As an animal advocate I am committed to supporting what is best for Billy. And it is my sincere belief, which is rooted in both data and expert testimony, that what is best for Billy is that he remain in the home he has known for almost his entire life.

I still find it surprising that the testimony of people with no science background, who have never worked with or studied elephants, is being given equal or greater weight than that of experts who have spent their entire lives studying and advocating for elephant health and conservation. Please listen to the voices that know Billy best, and reject the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Katrina Knudson



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Carol Hendrix <Silverfoxx21@aol.com>
To: eric.villanueva@lacity.org

Sun, Jul 22, 2018 at 7:52 PM

REGARDING CITY COUNCIL FILE #17-0453

Dear Members of the Los Angeles Arts, Parks & River Committee:

I do not support, and urge you to deny, the motion to release Billy the Elephant to a sanctuary. Billy should remain in his home at The Los Angeles Zoo, in an environment where he has lived for over 30 years in the care of professionals who know him well. He must stay in the environment that he is accustomed to and that is best suited for him. As a Los Angeles County native, I'm embarrassed and offended by the idea that a committee would entertain the suggestion to remove him. Do not allow him to be a pawn in the animal rights extremist's agenda to remove all animals from human care. I heartily support Billy and all the animals at The Los Angeles Zoo; I implore you to do so as well.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Carol Hendrix

Sent from my iPhone