

Betty White

CF-17-0453

Honorable David E Ryu  
City of Los Angeles, Council District Four  
200 N. Spring St  
Room 425  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Ryu,

I am writing you to express my support of the Los Angeles Zoo and their elephant program. As you may be aware, I have been involved intimately with the Los Angeles Zoo since the early 1970s. I have a particular interest in the Zoo's elephants and for years I would take weekly walks with our beloved Asian elephant, Gita and her care giver through the Zoo. During this time, Gita and I saw the Zoo go through its ups and downs. But I have to say that the present Zoo is the best I have ever seen it. The tremendous strides that have been made in animal husbandry and veterinary care are remarkable. The Zoo staff are some of the most dedicated, qualified people I have ever met. This being said, it is with sadness that I see the Los Angeles Zoo and its elephant program being questioned, once again, by a small group of misguided individuals.

The four elephants that currently reside at the Zoo have five dedicated professionals that care for them. The animals are provided daily enrichment and exercise. There is also top notch veterinary care available to ensure the health needs of the animals are being met. Contrary to what the critics say, the elephants are not miserable; they are not suffering and are in good health. I know this because I have visited them personally and talked with their care givers. One of the happiest days I have had since my association with the Zoo was when the Elephants of Asia exhibit opened in December 2010. It amazes me to this day to watch these elephants frolic in their pools, visit various feeding stations and provide an educational experience for our visitors. There is no better place for these elephants. The patriarch, Billy, has grown into a handsome bull elephant since his arrival in 1989. He knows no other home than Los Angeles. He is able to, and does, connect with the females through touch, smell and communication if he chooses to.

I am strongly asking you to support the Los Angeles Zoo and its elephant program. These elephants receive the very best care on a daily basis and it's a shame that this issue continues to surface due to unfounded criticisms.

Thank you.

Betty White



Carolina Peters &lt;carolina.peters@lacity.org&gt;

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## Send Billy to Sanctuary and End Captive Breeding at the Los Angeles Zoo

3 messages

**Melissa Johnson** <takeaction@idausa.org>  
Reply-To: Melissa Johnson <maynj777@hotmail.com>  
To: "Holly L. Wolcott" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 7:32 PM

Oct 31, 2017

Ms. Holly L. Wolcott

Dear Ms. Wolcott,

As a former resident of the Los Angeles area and a supporter of California-based In Defense of Animals that represents over 250,000 supporters, I urge you to support Councilman Koretz's motion to free Billy, the lone bull elephant at the Los Angeles Zoo, to an accredited GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries) sanctuary as soon as possible. We also ask the same for the female elephants at the exhibit, Tina and Jewell.

Billy's plight at the LA Zoo has been a focus of In Defense of Animals for over 12 years. The inadequate conditions that he is forced to live in, despite costly renovations to the Elephants of Asia exhibit, continue to negatively impact his well-being.

Through the LA Zoo's breeding program, Billy has been forced to endure a highly invasive procedure to collect his semen for the purpose of artificially inseminating females at other zoos for breeding. According to zoo documents, Billy underwent "training" for the actual semen collection process at least 55 times between January 20, 2011 and November 14, 2014.

This procedure is inhumane and invasive. While this has been touted as a practice of "conservation," the data shows that it is nothing of the sort, with elephants in zoos dying in captivity faster than they can reproduce due to the unnaturally high mortality rates of elephants in captivity. The only real way conservation for elephants can occur is in the wild and a certified elephant sanctuary is the closest thing to a natural environment that we can give to Billy.

There is no science- or conservation-based justification for the LA Zoo to keep Billy or ANY of the elephants, including females Tina and Jewel - in captivity. The scientifically validated negative effects of captivity on elephants are irrefutable and well documented.

Los Angeles must seize this opportunity for leadership on humane animal welfare issues and policy. Therefore, we urge you to support the relocation of Billy to a GFAS-certified sanctuary to transfer elephants Tina and Jewel as well - end all elephant captivity and elephant breeding programs at the LA Zoo immediately. +

Sincerely,

Melissa Johnson  
303 King Pl  
Fullerton, CA 92833-2635  
maynj777@hotmail.com

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**Roel Miranda** <takeaction@idausa.org>  
Reply-To: Roel Miranda <gsquared\_miranda@yahoo.com>  
To: "Holly L. Wolcott" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 9:02 PM

Oct 31, 2017

Ms. Holly L. Wolcott

Dear Ms. Wolcott,

As a Los Angeles constituent and a supporter of California-based In

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Mr. Roel Miranda  
11151 Scripps Ranch Blvd  
San Diego, CA 92131-2410  
(858) 837-4763  
gsquared\_miranda@yahoo.com

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**EVANGELINE Miranda** <takeaction@idausa.org>  
Reply-To: EVANGELINE Miranda <geegh@hotmail.com>  
To: "Holly L. Wolcott" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Tue, Oct 31, 2017 at 9:02 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

Mrs. EVANGELINE Miranda  
11151 Scripps Ranch Blvd  
San Diego, CA 92131-2410  
(858) 837-4763  
geegh@hotmail.com