



DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

October 18, 2017

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Chair, Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee
200 N. Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Council File 17-0453 Billy the Asian Bull Elephant

Councilmember O'Farrell,

I write to you today regarding Council File 17-0453 "Billy the Asian Bull Elephant / Elephants of Asia Exhibit / Safe and Healthful Care." As Billy is a constituent of my district, residing in the Los Angeles Zoo, I know there is particular interest in my opinions on the matter.

Throughout my term in office, I've heard a number of concerns from our communities regarding Billy's health, treatment and roaming capabilities inside the Zoo. I personally visited Billy to review his care when I took office in 2015 and again this past month.

Following my recent visit, I have questions for the Zoo Department and the offices of the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst. There are a number of issues and reports I would like to request regarding an independent review of Billy's health, the potential financial, logistical and accreditation impacts to the City or the Zoo of moving Billy, the conservation efforts of the Zoo and how those relate to Asian Elephants, the benefits or detriments of life at a Sanctuary versus the Zoo, and the purpose and methods of the breeding program.

I am looking forward to this discussion in your committee. I would also like to invite you and Councilmember Price to visit Billy at the Zoo, if you haven't yet this year. I believe it is important to visit Billy, survey his enclosure and speak with the Zoo staff who are responsible for his daily care in order to give this item a fair and well-informed hearing.

Sincerely,

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, 4th District

CC: Councilmember Curren D. Price Jr., Committee Member