



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

## release of Billy the Bull Elephant to sanctuary

2 messages

erica gavin <erica@ericagavin.com>

Thu, Jun 15, 2017 at 1:20 PM

To: paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Cc: councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, clerk.CPS@lacity.org, eric.villanueva@lacity.org

Dear Mr. Koretz,

First and foremost I would like to thank you for introducing the motion to free Billy the Bull Elephant to an appropriate sanctuary from the LA Zoo. Also, thanks to Mr.O'Farrell for seconding the motion.

Using my website as well as social media to promote Billy's cause. I had received an email thanking me for my posts and a confirmation of the sender having signed the petition with the following message (and I quote): **"We saw him this weekend while visiting the zoo... it's horrible."**

From experience, i know that watching Billy is heartbreaking!

I have spent time, a little money and a lot of heartache over the elephant situation at the L.A. Zoo. It seems there are numerous websites all for the FREE BILLY cause. I have posted links to sign petitions to my FB pages. My hope is to get people involved and help to make the public aware of what is "not so cool at the LA Zoo." I do know that additional signatures on petitions to FREE BILLY were obtained through my efforts and felt good that i was able to make a difference, no matter how small. I am not a letter writer but wrote to Mayor Garcetti in the hope that he would meet with The Elephant Guardians.

You see I care deeply but was somewhat confused after my experience at one of the L.A. Zoo Master Plan Community Meetings. Upon receiving an email to inform me of the meeting, I ordered myself a ticket online to reserve a seat.

Driving in the height of rush hour traffic (took 1 hour and 25 min to drive there), I arrived 5 minutes late to a handful of people in the auditorium's seats. It seemed that they were probably more interested in the refreshments served afterward than they were in the elaborate slide show or the speakers, so full of themselves and gushing about all the renovations that had taken place.

Not wanting my trip to be for naught, following some general questions asked by other audience members I took a deep breath and hesitantly raised my hand to ask a question before the meeting closed. From my throat, as i choked back tears, I affirmed that I was a supporter and follower of The Elephant Guardians and The Petition to FREE BILLY and all Bull Elephants to an appropriate Sanctuary. I then added that I was aware that there had been a lawsuit regarding the Asia Exhibit and was wondering why the Bull Elephants were not free to roam, as promised by the Zoo upon settlement of the case. "Billy is still segregated and swaying and bobbing most likely from anxiety, boredom and possibly depression."

Heads turned in horror to see who was spouting off toward the back of the auditorium.

The spokeswoman, Denise Verret, immediately shut me down by reminding me that this was a Community Master Plan Meeting to discuss planning for the L.A. Zoo, therefore, she was not going to address my query. Furthermore, she said that the Elephants are well taken care of, their needs met and in the right environment, and that all remodel and renovations are complete.

I did not know whether to get up and run out past the Policemen that flanked the doorways or to courteously stay put. I chose the later as i sat there stunned with my blood rushing.

Once the meeting was over I walked out, alone, into the damp and chilled night, toward my car, tears streaming for the elephants i left behind the gates to the L.A.Zoo.

"Things are not so cool at the L.A. Zoo".

Through your direct efforts and Mr. O'Farrell's, for seconding your motion, maybe one day the dream will be realized, and Billy will roam with his long lost friends as it is meant to be.

Sincere thanks to you

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Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>  
To: Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Thu, Jun 15, 2017 at 2:09 PM

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