



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

CF#17-0453

1 message

Kirin <kir@charter.net>

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 5:30 PM

To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org, clerk.cps@lacity.org

You all know the story of the blind men and the elephant.

One came up to the leg and thought it was a trunk, another to the tail and thought it was a snake and the ear was a fan, the tusk was a spear.

As good intended as some of you are, you are not seeing the *whole* picture.

The Zoo sees not *only* the entire elephant, but the environment he lives in. It sees the destruction of his habitat; the poaching, encroachment and disease. And this Zoo, and other AZA accredited institutions, are trying to save all of that. Not just the trunk. Or the spear. Or the fan. The elephant AND his habitat.

If you are environmentalists, like you say you are, you would see the big picture, and recognize that this motion goes against environment protection. With this motion, the Zoo could lose its accreditation with AZA, and with that funding and access to resources. Therefore, your actions will have a negative impact on wildlife rehabilitation efforts, and the recovery programs it supports. Research the effects of this motion, because if you vote to move Billy away from his home of 33 years, you vote to put a gunshot in one of the largest conservation programs in the world. Is *that* the trophy you're looking for?



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

11 messages

Sarah Cotton <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: sayswho93@live.co.uk
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 5:30 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Sarah Cotton

, California
07901964363
sayswho93@live.co.uk

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

The Elephants of Asia habitat at the Los Angeles Zoo is Billy's home. In fact, it's the only home that he has ever known. Billy lives in one of the best and largest elephant habitats in North America and benefits from tremendous resources, a dedicated staff, and top-quality health care. Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat at the L.A. Zoo and the space vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), as well as those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Billy's quality of care at the L.A. Zoo far surpasses that which he would receive at any sanctuary. Elephants are highly intelligent and sociable animals, and they form deep emotional bonds with their caregivers and other elephants. Billy's caregivers have known him for decades and he receives the best care possible at the L.A. Zoo. If Billy were sent to a sanctuary, the ties he has with his caregivers and fellow elephant companions would be broken. Further, any sanctuary would keep Billy separated from other elephants, since he is a bull and would not be allowed to mate.

The fact is that sanctuaries are limited in their land and financial resources, no matter their size. They do not have an accrediting organization as stringent as the AZA and they are not focused on or committed to saving animals from extinction.

At the L.A. Zoo, Billy is an ambassador for his endangered species. He is an important member of the AZA Asian elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP) and his presence at the L.A. Zoo raises awareness about his wild counterparts to the nearly 1.8 million people who visit the Zoo annually. The L.A. Zoo does a tremendous amount of conservation work and is committed to saving the thousands of species, including wild Asian elephants, that are on the verge of extinction.

I am submitting this letter because I care deeply about Billy's future as well as that of endangered wild Asian elephants. It is with this concern that I ask you NOT to approve the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary. Billy deserves the best care possible – and wild Asian elephants deserve a future.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cotton

sayswho93@live.co.uk

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens (<http://www.lazoo.org>)

Jacob Amacher <webmaster@lazoo.org>

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 7:10 PM

Reply-To: jkamacher@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Jacob Amacher
4295 Voltaire st. #s
San diego, California 92107
6197562917
jkamacher@gmail.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

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I am submitting this letter because I care deeply about Billy's future as well as that of endangered wild Asian elephants. It is with this concern that I ask you NOT to approve the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary. Billy deserves the best care possible – and wild Asian elephants deserve a future.

Sincerely,

Jacob Amacher
jkamacher@gmail.com
[Quoted text hidden]

Oliver Zirbel <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: orzirbel@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 7:58 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Oliver Zirbel
8848 Noeline Avenue
Spring valley, California 91977
6199441157
orzirbel@gmail.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As a keeper I can attest to the care facilities provide. I also know the truth of the Wild and what the risks are. Until we take care of the Wild that is no place for animals to be left to fend for themselves.

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

The Elephants of Asia habitat at the Los Angeles Zoo is Billy's home. In fact, it's the only home that he has ever known. Billy lives in one of the best and largest elephant habitats in North America and benefits from tremendous resources, a dedicated staff, and top-quality health care. Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat at the L.A. Zoo and the space vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), as well as those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

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Sincerely,

Oliver Zirbel

orzirbel@gmail.com

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susan pearson <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: aappears2@earthlink.net
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 9:12 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

susan pearson

la crescenta, California 91214
[8182498767](tel:8182498767)
aappears2@earthlink.net

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

The Elephants of Asia habitat at the Los Angeles Zoo is Billy's home. In fact, it's the only home that he has ever known. Billy lives in one of the best and largest elephant habitats in North America and benefits from tremendous resources, a dedicated staff, and top-quality health care. Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat at the L.A. Zoo and the space vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), as well as those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

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Sincerely,

susan pearson

apears2@earthlink.net

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Jill Thordarson <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: imvein@aol.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 9:58 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Jill Thordarson
2015 Queensberry rd
Pasadena, California 91104
[6267979756](tel:6267979756)
imvein@aol.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,

Jill Thordarson

imvein@aol.com

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Michael Elliott <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: buckskinman9025@yahoo.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 10:05 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Michael Elliott
425 S Sparks St
Burbank, California 91506
818-845-4061
buckskinman9025@yahoo.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

The Elephants of Asia habitat at the Los Angeles Zoo is Billy's home. In fact, it's the only home that he has ever known. Billy lives in one of the best and largest elephant habitats in North America and benefits from tremendous resources, a dedicated staff, and top-quality health care. Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat at the L.A. Zoo and the space vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), as well as those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

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Sincerely,

Michael Elliott

buckskinman9025@yahoo.com

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Robert Giannini <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: rgian@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 10:31 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Robert Giannini
3902 Berenice
Los Angeles, California 90032
[3232236263](tel:3232236263)
rgian@gmail.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,

Robert Giannini

rgian@gmail.com

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Roxane Losey <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: RLosey1@aol.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 10:32 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Roxane Losey
848 W. Foothill Blvd
Unit H
Monrovia, CA 91016
Monrovia, California 91016
[3522278006](tel:3522278006)

RLosey1@aol.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,

Roxane Losey

RLosey1@aol.com

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Sandra Cruze <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: cruzesandra@yahoo.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 10:32 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Sandra Cruze
741 n Ave 66
Los Angeles, California 90041
[6268337877](tel:6268337877)
cruzesandra@yahoo.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

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Sincerely,

Sandra Cruze

cruzesandra@yahoo.com

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Rozia Francis <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: rozia.francis@yahoo.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 10:58 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Rozia Francis
4623 WEST 17th street APT 2
Los Angeles, California 90019
[3234027696](tel:3234027696)
rozia.francis@yahoo.com

Dismiss Motion to Send Billy to a Sanctuary

Of the 364 days of the year that the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Garden is open, there are about 118,000 students that visit the zoo. In the small amount of time that they spend at the zoo, they get the greatest amount of experience to diversity via the numerous animals that they encounter. Here they get a chance to dream, here they get a moment to relate and here is where stewards of wildlife are created. As a fellow Angelino, I was one of those students. I stood on the outside of the animal enclosure and watched the animals. I wanted to know more about their lives and why they exist and from this small moment it gave me the inspiration to learn about conserving wildlife. As the battle for Billy the Elephant starts to brew again, this is one fact that goes unnoticed; "the number of school children that visit the zoo." This is also one aspect of the debate that I feel gets overlooked by the politicians and activists that are pursuing this motion.

Billy and I are Angelinos who share a need to thrive in Los Angeles, CA. I was born in this city and attended school in the Los Angeles United School District (LAUSD). As an adult reflecting into my "childhood education" I began to realize that this particular school district did not set its student up to succeed. We were to become the "burger flippers" of society as I remember one of my teachers saying to us. So, why did it matter that we understood science, math or reading? Could we thrive and succeed into getting into college? So, we can expand our chances of success in our adult lives. Every morning that I walked to school, I would have a backpack full of supplies, from notebooks, to pencils and even a calculator. But, to my disappointment the majority of those items were rarely used. I was shuffled from each class only to be "babysat" by a substitute teacher. They would send us home with textbooks, assign homework, and when we returned to class the homework was never collected. But, when it came to doing the standardized testing, we were told to do our best and the reality was that we were never taught the material that we were being tested on. The scores were low and at the end of the day it was our fault. The school would label its students as having behavioral problems and therefore our education

was not a priority. Therefore, the system goes unchecked because the people who can make these decisions do not continue further into the process to ensure that things are being done correctly. So, how does this relate to Billy the Elephant? In many ways it does, are the decisions being made, for his needs, just feelings or for the glory of “finally” winning this battle?

The moment I found my inspiration to conserve wildlife, that was the driving force that I used to push myself to graduate from the LAUSD schooling system, to go on to get my Associate of Art degree in Liberal Arts; attend a four-year university and accomplished getting my Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Biology. The journey itself was not that easy. The learning skills that I needed to obtain from elementary, middle and high school were minute. So, while I would understand the material taught at the college-level I would have to work extra hard than the other students, which made learning a struggle and left me disappointed. But, I still managed to make my education a priority because it is important to me. In order to get to school, I would use public transportation via the buses and trains and take a three-hour bus ride to school and take a three-hour bus ride back home. In the six hours of travel that I put in, I would study on the bus and try to give myself the best advantage as a student. But, I did not complain because in my mind, I was taking back what I lost out on in my “childhood education.”

For all the students that got lost in this schooling system you might wonder where they ended up and how much did they fight to thrive in Los Angeles? For me, my journey took me to the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens where I started out as a General Volunteer in 2005. The moment that I walked into the zoo, I could feel a change in my future outcome mainly because of the people that worked there. On my first day, I was surprised and taken aback by the friendly greetings and the way they got everyone involved in the zoo process and the number of people that asked me “how am I doing?” That one simple question made up for the lifetime of people who never really cared enough to ask me. It may seem odd, but that was just the reality of growing up in Los Angeles. In 2007, I got my first employment opportunity as a Camp Counselor and it was this moment that I realized that I was in a good place and the window of opportunities would be endless for me. I started out as a “shy/quiet person” at first but from this time I thrived and developed more than I did as a child. I am now working at the zoo as an Education Specialist, where I get a chance to do public speaking, lead tours, do animal presentations, interact with the public and help run children classes. Therefore, in a zoo setting there is growth, potential to thrive, succeed and there exist a safe place for physical, mental and emotional development. For a human being, such as myself, I came from a place in Los Angeles that limited my prospects in life and went to a zoo in Los Angeles that expanded the horizons of opportunities available for me.

For the animal residents of the zoo, they will probably feel the same way that I do. There is an old saying of how we shouldn't implore human feelings onto animals, but for many animals they can sense when they're in good hands. Billy the Elephant does have a story to tell just like me. He came from an unknown world and ended up at the Los Angeles Zoo. Here he gets greeted by the same welcoming people that I meet on my first day at the zoo. His ability to thrive in a zoo setting comes in the form of enrichment, his bonding with his handlers, and the positive environment that they work with him in. How can you tell? What can we use to measure it? We can time out of our busy schedule to visit Billy at the zoo and see how he interacts with his keepers, walk around his entire exhibit and glance at him from afar and watch him and learn about his personality on different days and at different hours. Here Billy is an individual, here he has a team of keepers that lookout for him; in addition, to the 300 plus employees of the zoo. In an alternate perspective, we can ask ourselves about sanctuaries, which can give Billy one thing; space.

One visit to the Los Angeles Zoo, changed the outcome for 1 of 118,000 students that visited each year. One elephant of many is changing the conversation about wildlife. Billy, is one of the many residents of the City of Los Angeles, and his care at the Los Angeles Zoo is a reflection of the many Angelinos that want things to “matter.”

Rozia Francis

rozia.francis@yahoo.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Wendy Wiseman <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: wendysusan0306@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 10:59 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Wendy Wiseman
6922 Oakwood Ave
Los Angeles, California 90036
[3232524890](tel:3232524890)
wendysusan0306@gmail.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that

would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

The Elephants of Asia habitat at the Los Angeles Zoo is Billy's home. In fact, it's the only home that he has ever known. Billy lives in one of the best and largest elephant habitats in North America and benefits from tremendous resources, a dedicated staff, and top-quality health care. Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat at the L.A. Zoo and the space vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), as well as those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Billy's quality of care at the L.A. Zoo far surpasses that which he would receive at any sanctuary. Elephants are highly intelligent and sociable animals, and they form deep emotional bonds with their caregivers and other elephants. Billy's caregivers have known him for decades and he receives the best care possible at the L.A. Zoo. If Billy were sent to a sanctuary, the ties he has with his caregivers and fellow elephant companions would be broken. Further, any sanctuary would keep Billy separated from other elephants, since he is a bull and would not be allowed to mate.

The fact is that sanctuaries are limited in their land and financial resources, no matter their size. They do not have an accrediting organization as stringent as the AZA and they are not focused on or committed to saving animals from extinction.

At the L.A. Zoo, Billy is an ambassador for his endangered species. He is an important member of the AZA Asian elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP) and his presence at the L.A. Zoo raises awareness about his wild counterparts to the nearly 1.8 million people who visit the Zoo annually. The L.A. Zoo does a tremendous amount of conservation work and is committed to saving the thousands of species, including wild Asian elephants, that are on the verge of extinction.

I am submitting this letter because I care deeply about Billy's future as well as that of endangered wild Asian elephants. It is with this concern that I ask you NOT to approve the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary. Billy deserves the best care possible – and wild Asian elephants deserve a future.

Sincerely,

Wendy Wiseman

wendysusan0306@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

1 message

Jennifer Hart <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: jennhart11@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 8:29 AM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Jennifer Hart

Los Angeles, California 91605
[9163003555](tel:9163003555)
jennhart11@gmail.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

The Los Angeles Zoo is a top facility that leads the way in Animal Care, Welfare & Animal conservation. Taking Billy out of his current environment would be detrimental to his overall welfare. Do what's right for Billy and keep him with the people who use science based facts and knowledge to give him the best care possible and not let EXTREME emotional reaction determine the life of a magnificent creature. Animal Rights extremists do not want what's best for that individual animal they want to push their agenda of ending all animal "ownership" which includes not having a pet goldfish, not having a dog or cat as a pet, not eating eggs that chickens lay. They do not truly care about Billy.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Hart

Jennifer Hart

jennhart11@gmail.com

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens (<http://www.lazoo.org>)



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

1 message

Calan Jordheim <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: calliej2004@yahoo.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 8:03 AM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Calan Jordheim

, California
760-412-9737
calliej2004@yahoo.com

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

I have been working with exotic animals for ten years now and have worked at and visited many animal "rescues" and "sanctuaries". These facilities are under regulated and under funded. Also, many have less experienced staff and volunteers caring for their animals. The LA zoo is regulated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which holds the highest standards for animal care in the country. Without even visiting the facility, you can rest assured that all the animals in their care are properly managed and cared for.

In addition, the LA Zoo works with many other facilities in sharing information to make sure their animals get the best care possible. They used fact based science and use a network of highly trained professionals when making any decisions on how to properly care for each individual animal. The keepers who care for Billy are the people who know him best and they have the animal care experience to back up the decisions they make regarding his welfare. It is our jobs as supporters of animal rights to trust the judgment of these professionals, support them, and help them perform their jobs to the best of their abilities.

I truly hope this elephant is allowed to stay in his home, with his herd and his family of keepers, for the rest of his time on this planet. He is a magnificent animal and an important ambassador for his species.

Sincerely,

Calan Jordheim
calliej2004@yahoo.com

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens (<http://www.lazoo.org>)

Google Groups

LA Zoo

Molly Callahan

Jan 31, 2018 12:28 PM

Posted in group: **Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services**

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you to express my support for the LA zoo's care of Billy the elephant and wish for him to stay in their care. I see no reason for him to be taken elsewhere as he receives excellent care. In addition, the sanctuary he would be sent to, TES, has been known to treat their elephants poorly. The elephants in their care have often been seen with many bruises on their bodies, living in poor indoor conditions, and many contract TB and die from it. For these reasons, I feel the motion of moving Billy should not be carried out.

Thank you for your time.