



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

16 messages

Irene Boyd <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: imb1130@aol.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 12:09 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Irene Boyd
2018 Griffith Park Blvd. #111
Los Angeles, California 90029
[8184689034](tel:8184689034)
imb1130@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.

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,

Irene Boyd
imb1130@aol.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>)

Lynn Toler <webmaster@lazoo.org>

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 3:26 PM

Reply-To: lynn.toler@verizon.net
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Lynn Toler
10020 Montgomery Avenue
North Hills, California 91343
818-807-2910
lynn.toler@verizon.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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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,

Lynn Toler

lynn.toler@verizon.net

[Quoted text hidden]

Gerald Toler <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: gerald.toler@verizon.net
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 3:27 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Gerald Toler
10020 Montgomery Avenue
North Hills, California 91343
818-895-7654
gerald.toler@verizon.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.

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Sincerely,

Gerald Toler

gerald.toler@verizon.net

[Quoted text hidden]

Barbara Miller <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: barbaramiller10@aol.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 4:35 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Barbara Miller
11552 Caliente Creek rd
Caliente, California 93518
[6618672094](tel:6618672094)
barbaramiller10@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.

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,

Barbara Miller

barbaramiller10@aol.com

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Omar Douglas <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: zodouglas1@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 5:04 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Omar Douglas
4027 Garden Ave.
Los Angeles, California 90039
[2134452515](tel:2134452515)
zodouglas1@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.

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Sincerely,

Omar Douglas

zodouglas1@gmail.com

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Chelsea Dunlap <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: chelsea.dunlap@sfcollge.edu
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 6:15 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Chelsea Dunlap

, California

4076191945

chelsea.dunlap@sfcollge.edu

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,

Chelsea Dunlap

chelsea.dunlap@sfcollge.edu

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Gabrielle Cox <webmaster@lazoo.org>

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 7:40 PM

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

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Gabrielle Cox
7448 Gaviota Ave
Van Nuys, California 91406
8185199998
gaburieruumi@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.

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Sincerely,

Gabrielle Cox
gaburieruumi@gmail.com
[Quoted text hidden]

Jamie Feinstein <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: jamielfeinstein@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 7:43 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Jamie Feinstein

, California
8058079265
jamielfeinstein@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.

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Sincerely,

Jamie Feinstein

jamielfeinstein@gmail.com

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Wendy Olson <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: flyingfree45@yahoo.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 8:11 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Wendy Olson
3727 W. Magnolia Blvd.
#173
Burbank, California 91505
[8184221218](tel:8184221218)
flyingfree45@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,

Wendy Olson

flyingfree45@yahoo.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Sherry Kramer <webmaster@lazoo.org>

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 8:42 PM

Reply-To: csherry47@aol.com

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

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Sherry Kramer
230 Surrey Dr
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530
[8184819166](tel:8184819166)
csherry47@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.

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,

Sherry Kramer

csherry47@aol.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Armando Morales <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: mando-re@pacbell.net
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 8:57 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Armando Morales
71 N. Wilson Ave # 8
Pasadena, California 91106
626-440-7294
mando-re@pacbell.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,

Armando Morales

mando-re@pacbell.net

[Quoted text hidden]

Steve Duncan <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: steve@avianresources.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 8:58 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Steve Duncan
P.O. Box 3161
San Dimas, California 91773
[9097202256](tel:9097202256)
steve@avianresources.com

I am writing to urge the LA City Council to dismiss motion #17-0453 to send Billy the elephant to a sanctuary. Such an action would be harmful to Billy the elephant, and it would be harmful to the zoo's mission of raising attention and awareness for elephant conservation. The facility at the zoo is Billy's only home and it far exceeds the standard of care for elephants as set by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. We should be relying on the expertise of those involved in elephant care instead of pandering to anti-captivity activists who are driven by an agenda of eliminating animals from zoos and who do not have the expertise to evaluate elephant care.

Steve Duncan

steve@avianresources.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Patti Davis-Simon <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: daveandpatti@earthlink.net
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 11:08 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Patti Davis-Simon
800 Milan Ave
South Pasadena, California 91030
[8182077397](tel:8182077397)
daveandpatti@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.

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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,

Patti Davis-Simon

daveandpatti@earthlink.net

[Quoted text hidden]

Lucca Gambim <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: raptordino43@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Fri, Feb 2, 2018 at 7:31 AM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Lucca Gambim

, Kentucky
8553068959
raptordino43@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,

Lucca Gambim

raptordino43@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

1 message

Denis Koenig <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: dmkoenig@me.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 6:11 AM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Denis Koenig
926 21st Ave
Seattle, Washington 98122
[5627738858](tel:5627738858)
dmkoenig@me.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,

Denis Koenig
dmkoenig@me.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>

CF #17-0453 - Elephant Motion

2 messages

Denise Tamura <denise.tamura@lacity.org>

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 10:32 AM

To: Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Cc: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Hi Michael,

Will you add the attached letter from AZA to CF #17-0453?

THANX!

Denise Tamura

Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens

Zoo Director's Office

5333 Zoo Drive

Los Angeles, CA 90027

[323/644-4261](tel:3236444261)

[323/644-4206](tel:3236444206) (fax)

denise.tamura@lacity.org

www.lazoo.org

"Creating Dynamic Experiences to Connect People and Animals"



012318-AZA Letter to AEPRC re-Council File 17-0453.pdf

48K

Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 11:02 AM

To: denise.tamura@lacity.org

Your message

To: Michael Espinosa

Subject: CF #17-0453 - Elephant Motion

Sent: 2/1/18, 10:32:38 AM PST

was read on 2/1/18, 11:02:13 AM PST



8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3314
301-562-0777 tel 301-562-0888 fax
www.aza.org

January 23, 2018

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell
Chair, Arts, Entertainment, Parks & River Committee (AEP&R)
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File #17-0453

Dear Councilmember O'Farrell:

It is my understanding the Los Angeles City Council Arts, Entertainment, Parks and River Committee is scheduled to hear Councilmember Paul Koretz' motion (council file # 17-0453) to relocate the Los Angeles Zoo's male elephant, Billy, to a sanctuary. It is to oppose this motion that I am writing to you today.

The Los Angeles Zoo has been a continuously accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for nearly 40 years. AZA accreditation is regarded as the gold standard for animal care in a zoological setting, an honor for only 10 percent of U.S. zoos. The zoo and their staff represent the very best in the zoological profession, and it is demonstrated every day as they care for their elephants.

In 2011, the AZA Board of Directors adopted even more rigorous and detailed standards specific to the care of elephants at AZA-accredited zoos. They have been refined and updated several times since then to reflect the state of the art in modern science and zoological practices related to caring for elephants. AZA affords the very highest priority on the health and safety of elephants and the professionals working with elephants, and we monitor both of those aspects through our rigorous accreditation process.

The Los Angeles Zoo last went through AZA's accreditation process in December 2016. As part of that comprehensive inspection, the AZA accreditation team reviewed the zoo's elephant program. During that inspection, the team found that the zoo's elephant program met or exceeded all of AZA's Elephant Standards, and reported those findings to the AZA Accreditation Commission.

In addition to providing superior care to their elephants, the Los Angeles Zoo is part of the 96 Elephants coalition, seeking to educate the public on the poaching of African elephants and the resulting illegal ivory trade. The elephants at Los Angeles Zoo are ambassadors to their cousins in the wild, and help tell the story to the tens of thousands of visitors to the zoo each year.

As you may know, I was nominated by former President Barack Obama, and confirmed by the United States Senate, to be U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director from 2011-2017. During my tenure we were able to lead the global fight to protect elephants from illegal trafficking, ban domestic ivory sales, establish global leadership by crushing ivory stockpiles in Denver and in Times Square, and apply successful diplomatic pressure to secure commitment from China to close their domestic ivory trade. We could not have achieved these things for wild elephants without the support of the Los Angeles Zoo, and more than 120 other zoos who joined with us. The public who visit these great zoos, and who see elephants in excellent care, are more likely to support efforts like our regulations banning domestic ivory sale. I understand that you care for elephants, and applaud your dedication, but respectfully ask your reconsideration.

It is the sincere hope of the AZA that you reconsider this motion, and keep Billy at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel M. Ashe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

The Honorable Daniel M. Ashe
President and CEO, AZA
Former Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

1 message

Janelle Brandt <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: jbrandt@gpzoo.org
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 6:39 AM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Janelle Brandt

, South Dakota
1111111
jbrandt@gpzoo.org

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

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.

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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.

Sending Billy away would be a death sentence!

Sincerely,

Janelle Brandt

jbrandt@gpzoo.org

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