



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

1 message

jean suphichai <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: jeanniesup@hotmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Sat, Feb 10, 2018 at 4:05 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

jean suphichai
15133 marlin pl
van nuys, California 91405
[8187859438](tel:8187859438)
jeanniesup@hotmail.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,

jean suphichai
jeanniesup@hotmail.com

--

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>

Fwd: The L.A. Zoo's Elephant Program/Billy Staying Put

1 message

Eric (Roderico) Villanueva <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
To: Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 9:34 AM

fyi...

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Carolyn Hennesy** <qofspain@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sat, Feb 10, 2018 at 12:27 PM
Subject: The L.A. Zoo's Elephant Program/Billy Staying Put
To: "eric.villanueva@lacity.org" <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>

Dear Sir...

Please find below the written text of my comments to members of the City Council currently assessing the situation of Billy, the bull elephant at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Although I was forced on the day to shorten it somewhat as we were told we'd not have two minutes but only one for comments, I am sending you the full text.

In short, please cease the debate over what's best for Billy: the removal of this beloved, healthy, spoiled and magnificent ambassador from the zoo will only give the radical activists (who care nothing for animal welfare but only for profit and celebrity sightings) a firm toehold into dissolving the L.A. Zoo altogether and toward their larger aim of dismantling all zoos everywhere. Zoos...now our last best hope of preservation and conservation of so many species.

Comments to the Council begin here:

As devastating wildfires and killer mudslides threaten the safety of Californians, the Los Angeles City Council is spending its time, and my tax dollars, debating the life of a wonderfully cared for elephant.

At the age of 4, Billy was found by the Thai government wandering the jungle alone... almost surely having watched as his mother was blown up by a landmine. He was given as a gift to the Los Angeles Zoo, because of the zoo's reputation, and was brought here under the watchful eye of former LA Zoo curator and conservationist Mike Dee.

Mike spent the next several decades stewarding Billy as he delighted and educated millions while becoming the pride of the Los Angeles Zoo. Throughout his life at the zoo, Billy has known nothing but expert care, love and pampering at the hands of his keepers, especially now by Miss Vicky.

Several years ago, I spent three consecutive days (and countless days since) observing Billy in his home. I can attest to his stellar quality of life, and against the claims by radical activists who say Billy is miserable. Studies by scientific leaders, including the University of Florida, and World Wildlife Fund, also support to the capability of elephants to thrive in well-designed, mentally stimulating environments like the Los Angeles Zoo, where Billy has access to 6 acres of safe, serene land, a warm barn, food and plenty of love.

The radical activists calling for Billy's relocation are not interested in science. They would rather look for quick "solutions" that prioritize their money-loving, stunt-filled agendas over the true well-being of animals. Moving Billy to a so-called "sanctuary," one without the rigorous accreditation and expertise of the Los Angeles Zoo, is just that, a reactive decision that would remove Billy from all he knows and condemn him to a life of loneliness and neglect.

In Thailand and Cambodia, I have personally seen elephants rocking back and forth on their front and hind legs, due to the stress and the horror of life on a six foot length of chain. Billy is not, and never has been, one of these animals. He is a magnificent ambassador for his species living a rich and fulfilling life.

If the City Council really wishes to do something beneficial for Billy, cease the constant expenditure of taxpayer dollars over this frivolous, unscientific debate, place your support behind institutions like the Los Angeles Zoo, and look for ways to help wildlife around the world who are suffering.

And get Billy a girlfriend.

Articles Used:

WWF study on wild Asian elephants - Elephants that have access to an abundance of food and water travel less than half of KM a day.

assets.panda.org/downloads/stpe_1wwf.pdf

Mental stimulation more important than space to zoo elephants -

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0158124>

Carolyn

I know what I have given you. I do not know what you have received.

-Antonio Porchia, poet (13 Nov 1886-1968)

"Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened."

Anatole France

A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury. -John Stuart Mill, philosopher and economist (1806-1873)

www.carolynhennesy.com
<http://www.ubnradio.com/AnimalMagnetism>
www.carolynlee.nerium.com
<http://www.wellness49.com/p/skinnych>
www.pandyinc.com
twitter.com/carolynhennesy
Carolyn Hennesy (chenesy) on Pinterest



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Council File #17-0453

4 messages

Carol Armstrong <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: mtnnhikg@yahoo.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Sun, Feb 11, 2018 at 6:54 AM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Carol Armstrong
3333 El Encanto Court
Bakersfield, California 93301
[8184376074](tel:8184376074)
mtnnhikg@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.

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,

Carol Armstrong
mtnnhikg@yahoo.com

--

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

Marta Segura <webmaster@lazoo.org>

Sun, Feb 11, 2018 at 7:07 AM

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

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Marta Segura
4059 W. 59th Pl.
Los Angeles, California 90043
[3236420427](tel:3236420427)
soysegura@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,

Marta Segura

soysegura@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Elke Heitmeyer <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: naiad4life@gmail.com
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Sun, Feb 11, 2018 at 3:24 PM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Elke Heitmeyer

Sherman Oaks, California 91423
[818-448-0277](tel:818-448-0277)
naiad4life@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,

Elke Heitmeyer

naiad4life@gmail.com

[Quoted text hidden]

Maria Eberts <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Reply-To: maria.eberts@sbcglobal.net
To: clerk.cps@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 3:05 AM

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Maria Eberts
3315 Griffith Park Bl # 302
Los Angeles, California 90027
[323-666-0150](tel:323-666-0150)
maria.eberts@sbcglobal.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.

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,

Maria Eberts

maria.eberts@sbcglobal.net

[Quoted text hidden]