



Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

REGARDING CITY COUNCIL FILE #17-0453

43 messages

Yvette Godfroid <info@care2.com>

Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 9:51 AM

Reply-To: Yvette Godfroid <yvette.godfroid@gmail.com>

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

Jul 13, 2018

Mr. Michael Espinosa

Dear Mr. Espinosa,

Billy the elephant has lived at the Los Angeles Zoo for nearly 30 years, since he was taken as a youngster from his natural environment in Malaysia. For most of this time, he has endured living all by himself in an extremely tiny enclosure. As a result, he has displayed significant signs of stress, such as swaying and rocking side to side and head-bobbing due to frustration, boredom and possibly depression.

Elephants naturally need to roam several miles a day to maintain healthy joints and feet. They are also highly intelligent, sensitive, and social animals who need to be engaged by their surroundings in order to be happy. Billy has none of this.

I am not alone in being worried that Billy will face the same fate as his predecessors at the Los Angeles Zoo, who died prematurely due to conditions elephants often acquire while living in enclosed and cramped quarters.

The Los Angeles Zoo promised to close down the old elephant exhibit and build a bigger, better enclosure for Billy that would be more like his natural environment. But even after the renovations, Billy is still being kept in a tiny area separate from the other elephants. He still displays the same repetitive swaying and head-bobbing behavior that demonstrates his stress, boredom, and depression. Simply rotating the elephants from one small area to another does not give them enough exercise.

This new "state-of-the-art" elephant exhibit is not at all what the L.A. Zoo promised it would be. It seems to me that the new exhibit was built more to impress paying visitors than to meet Billy's needs. I feel betrayed and lied to by the Los Angeles Zoo, and I'm still very much concerned about the fate of Billy.

Please free Billy and send him to an elephant sanctuary.

Sincerely,

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Fri, Jul 13, 2018 at 10:18 AM

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