



April 23, 2018

Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Richard Williams, Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Councilmembers:

"Creating dynamic experiences to connect people and animals"

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Richard Lichtenstein
ex officio member

John R. Lewis
Zoo Director

The Zoo Department respectfully submits this correspondence for your information regarding the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2018-19 Proposed Budget. The Zoo Department's proposed budget focuses on the need for additional critical resources to support animal care and welfare programs, coordinate our conservation efforts, increase visitor engagement opportunities, expand educational offerings and address emergency preparedness, safety, and facility cleanliness and maintenance operations. In addition to the operational resources provided in the Proposed Budget, the Zoo has received support for capital improvements that enhance the visitor experience, including a new family restroom, lactation center and open space park-area improvement. These resources all support our vision of *"leveraging the diverse resources of Los Angeles to be an innovator for the global zoo community, creating dynamic experiences to connect people and animals."*

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens remains a safe, affordable family cultural and educational destination serving nearly 80 million visitors and the Los Angeles community for over 50 years. As we continue to strive to be a leading institution in animal welfare, conservation, education, and recreation, we must provide exceptional care for the living collection of 1,100 animals and over 7,000 plants. We strive to deliver consistent, innovative, and improved services that meet evolving visitor expectations and that continually engage and excite new and repeat visitation.

The Proposed Budget represents an attendance projection of 1.79 million visitors and over \$22.8 million in revenue generation and receipts that fully supports the Zoo's operating budget as proposed. The Zoo continues to leverage its resources to be financially stable and the Proposed Budget maintains the admission rates at the current level with no proposed increase.

We look forward to your support of the Zoo Department's Proposed Budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

John R. Lewis, General Manager
Zoo Department

JRL:DMV:MK/lg



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