

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, bears, tigers, elephants and other wild animals don't perform difficult tricks in circuses and other shows because they want to, but rather because they're afraid of what will happen to them if they don't because they are trained to do these tricks with whips, muzzles, electric prods, bullhooks (which now are illegal in California) and other weapons that cause them pain and injury; and

WHEREAS, traveling exhibitors haul animals across the country year-round, through cold, heat and other weather extremes, confining them in trailers, trucks or rail cars where they may not have access to trailers or trucks, or basic necessities such as climate control, room to move, food, water and veterinary care; and

WHEREAS, local and state efforts to regulate transient circuses and other traveling shows featuring wild and exotic animals are hampered by a lack of specialized knowledge and training on the part of local animal control officers and inspectors, and an inclination to defer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, whose regulations and resources often are inadequate to protect the animals; and

WHEREAS, performing wild animals also pose a danger to the public and their trainers when they act on their natural instincts and charge handlers or audiences, escape into public spaces and sometimes end up being killed in order to protect people and property; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has previously recognized these issues with regard to elephants, banning the use of bullhooks, which led to a statewide ban and subsequently the end of elephants performing in the Ringling Bros./Barnum and Bailey Circus; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Ben Hueso (D-San Diego) has introduced SB 313, the "Circus Cruelty Prevention Act," which prohibits the use of a narrowly-tailored list of wild and exotic animals who are inherently unsuitable for a transient existence and a life of degrading performances, including elephants, tigers, camels and others in circuses and traveling animal acts; and

WHEREAS, this bill constructively expands upon the work the City of Los Angeles has done – and is doing – to offer broader protections to wild and exotic animals, and deserves the City's support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, with the concurrence of the Mayor, by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program support for SB 313 to prohibit the use of certain wild or exotic animals in circuses or traveling animal shows within the state of California for the protection of the animals and the public alike.

PRESENTED BY:



 PAUL KORETZ, Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY:





ORIGINAL

FEB 19 2019