

MOTION

OCT 21 2008

As the world's largest land mammal, elephants need specialized care in order to thrive. By nature they are designed for almost constant movement on varied terrain and to live in herds with other elephants.

Zoos cannot provide the acreage necessary to accommodate the world's largest land mammal. Elephants in zoos do not have the space they need and as a result suffer from severe arthritic and degenerative joint disorders and foot infections. The life span of an elephant in a zoo is drastically reduced compared to a wild elephant. The life span of an elephant in the wild is 60-70 years. Zoos can not accommodate the basic physical and psychological needs of elephant's in captivity.

The Los Angeles Zoo has had elephants on exhibit since 1966. Since 1975, thirteen (13) elephants have died at the zoo and half of those did not live to the age of 20. Most recently the City of Los Angeles suffered the loss of Gita in June 2006. Two years prior, the City of Los Angeles lost Tara.

Since 2000, 63 elephants in U.S. Zoos have died. Many of the deaths can be attributed to complications from restricted movement.

To date, twelve (12) cities have closed their elephant exhibits and six (6) zoos plan on closing or phasing out their own. The zoos that have closed their elephants exhibits include: Alaska Zoo in Anchorage, AK, Albine Zoo in Albine, TX, Gladys's Porter Zoo in Brownsville TX, Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, IL, Detroit Zoo in Detroit, MI, San Francisco Zoo in San Francisco, CA, Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Albany GA, Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison WI, Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo in Monroe, LA, Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville, IN, Frank Buck Zoo in Gainesville, TX and the Sacramento Zoo in Sacramento, CA. The zoos that plan on closing down and/or phasing out their elephant exhibit include: Bronx zoo in Bronx, NY, Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford, MA, Central Florida Zoo in Sanford, FL, Lion Country Zoo in Loxahatchee, FL, Philadelphia Zoo in Philadelphia, PA and the Santa Barbara Zoo in Santa Barbara CA.

The City of Los Angeles should join these progressive cities and permanently close the elephant exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo and not appropriate any additional funds to the Elephant Pachyderm Exhibit. In addition, Billy the sole elephant at the Los Angeles Zoo should be moved to a sanctuary for elephants as soon as possible.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Chief Legislative Analyst and Chief Administrative Officer with the assistance of any other City Department report ~~within thirty (30) days~~ on the following:

within forty five 45

- a) Costs associated with transferring the remaining elephant (Billy) to an elephant sanctuary;
- b) Alternative uses for the current Elephant Pachyderm exhibit and the possible transfer of other zoo animals into the intended Elephant Pachyderm Exhibit;
- c) Status of elephant exhibits that have closed and currently do house elephants on the zoos premise throughout the United States;
- d) Fiscal implications for closing the elephant Pachyderm Exhibit;

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Public Works stop all appropriations and not approve any new or extensions to any contracts related to the Elephant Pachyderm Exhibit.

I FURHTER MOVE that the City Attorney within thirty (30) days draft an ordinance for Council consideration prohibiting elephant exhibits at the Los Angeles Zoo.

PRESENTED BY

Tony Cardenas
 TONY CARDENAS
 Councilmember 6th District

OCT 21 2008

SECONDED BY

Bob Rindell
Richard Alarcon

EG 08-2850