

MOTION

The Los Angeles Police Department has responded to several calls from residents in the Hollywood Hills and visitors to the tourist areas regarding the presence of various exotic and wild animals. In the past year, an elephant, lion, and a baby giraffe were rented as props for private events in the Hollywood Hills. Moreover, on the public sidewalk on various species of snakes, reptiles, birds, and non-human primates attracts large numbers of visitors on a daily basis. Numerous individuals (handlers) have offered photos with animals including snakes and birds in exchange for a monetary donation. At times, the animal handlers are aggressive and the birds and snakes are tossed at unsuspecting visitors to force an interaction. The presence of these animals on the public sidewalk causes a commotion that result in people congregating in the middle of the sidewalk restricting public access, and sometimes spilling into the streets.

These animals appearing in residential areas, on display in the tourist areas, public sidewalks, and Parks, have generated a growing public concern and complaint of inhumane treatment of these animals and question if the exposure to large number of people at the private events and on public sidewalks - in a loud urban environment (which is generally not their native habitat) - and their prolonged exposure to the sun is healthy for the animals.

Staff is proposing an ordinance that would prohibit some wild and exotic animals, including all species of snakes, reptiles, birds, and non-human primates from all City parks, public sidewalks, and the beach. Prohibited animals may be present on public property in accordance with the terms and conditions of a community events permit or film permit issued by the City, and animals naturally inhabiting these areas would be exempt from the proposed ordinance.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance which would restrict or otherwise regulate the display of exotic and wild animals in public spaces in cases where special event or filming permits have not already been issues, as further detailed in the text of this motion.

PRESENTED BY:



DAVID RYU
Councilmember, 4th District

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SECONDED BY:


