

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to prohibiting the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Ryu - Blumenfield et al.):

1. REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that would prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement, including circuses, other wild or exotic animal shows, and rentals for house parties, with exceptions for accredited zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, legitimate filming purposes, research facilities, and legitimate conservation-related programs or presentations.
2. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to:
  - a. Work with the City Attorney in drafting the Ordinance as detailed above in Recommendation No. 1.
  - b. Report in regard to the estimated cost of implementing and enforcing the Ordinance as detailed above in Recommendation No. 1.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For:  
Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On April 5, 2017, your Committee considered a Motion (Ryu - Blumenfield) relative to prohibiting the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement. According to the Motion, the use of wild and exotic animals, particularly in circuses, has desensitized generations of people and taught our children that it is perfectly acceptable to treat wild and exotic animals as objects or toys. The City has also seen displays of snakes, reptiles, birds, and non-human primates on the public sidewalk and in parks, where handlers have offered photos with animals 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. This use and misuse of wild and exotic animals for personal or public entertainment and financial gain has a long and unfortunate history. The practice has led to tremendous pain for these animals who often suffer from loneliness, malnutrition and the overwhelming stress of lengthy confinements during transport. Further, to get animals to perform "tricks" and other acts unnatural to them, handlers have been repeatedly shown to use inhumane training techniques. Wild and exotic animals hold instinctive social and physical needs specific or indigenous to their natural environments. If these animals are unable to express their normal behaviors, they can suffer from physical and mental trauma. This behavior impacts the welfare of these animals, which places the safety of the animal and the public at risk.

Representatives from the Department of Animal Services presented an overview and answered questions from the Committee members. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion, as amended, and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



| <u>MEMBER</u>  | <u>VOTE</u> |
|----------------|-------------|
| KORETZ:        | YES         |
| RYU:           | YES         |
| HARRIS-DAWSON: | YES         |

ARL  
4/5/17

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**