



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: DISMISS the Motion to Send Billy to a Sanctuary

1 message

Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>
To: Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Mon, Jun 5, 2017 at 8:18 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Janine Baker** <webmaster@lazoo.org>
Date: Sat, Jun 3, 2017 at 9:14 PM
Subject: DISMISS the Motion to Send Billy to a Sanctuary
To: paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org
Cc: Clerk.CPS@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

Sent by the Los Angeles Zoo on behalf of:

Janine Baker
10430 Las Lunitas Ave
Tujunga, California 91042
6614060535
jbaker1021@att.net

Dear Los Angeles City Council Arts, Parks, and River Committee Member,

As an area resident and a supporter of the Los Angeles Zoo, I urge you to dismiss L.A. City Council motion #17-0453 that would send Billy the Asian elephant to a sanctuary.

The Elephants of Asia habitat at the Los Angeles Zoo is Billy's home. In fact, it's the only home that he has ever known. Billy lives in one of the best and largest elephant habitats in North America and benefits from tremendous resources, a dedicated staff, and top-quality health care. Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat at the L.A. Zoo and the space vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), as well as those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Billy's quality of care at the L.A. Zoo far surpasses that which he would receive at any sanctuary. Elephants are highly intelligent and sociable animals, and they form deep emotional bonds with their caregivers and other elephants. Billy's caregivers have known him for decades and he receives the best care possible at the L.A. Zoo. If Billy were sent to a sanctuary, the ties he has with his caregivers and fellow elephant companions would be broken. Further, any sanctuary would keep Billy separated from other elephants, since he is a bull and would not be allowed to mate.

The fact is that sanctuaries are limited in their land and financial resources, no matter their size. They do not have an accrediting organization as stringent as the AZA and they are not focused on or committed to saving animals from extinction.

At the L.A. Zoo, Billy is an ambassador for his endangered species. He is an important member of the AZA Asian elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP) and his presence at the L.A. Zoo raises awareness about his wild counterparts to the nearly 1.8 million people who visit the Zoo annually. The L.A. Zoo does a tremendous amount of conservation work and is committed to saving the thousands of species, including wild Asian elephants, that are on the verge of extinction.

I am submitting this letter because I care deeply about Billy's future as well as that of endangered wild Asian elephants. It is with this concern that I ask you NOT to approve the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary. Billy deserves the best care possible – and wild Asian elephants deserve a future.

Sincerely,

Janine Baker

jbaker1021@att.net

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens (<http://www.lazoo.org>)



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

To the attention of Councilmen: Mr. Paul Koretz, Mr. Mitch O'Farrell, Mr. Curren Price, Mr. Bob Blumenfield, Mr. David Ryu | BILLY the ELEPHANT | Please release him and ALL ELEPHANTS to an Animal Sanctuary

2 messages

Stacy Williams <singstacysing@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 7, 2017 at 9:23 AM

To: paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org

Cc: Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org, Clerk.CPS@lacity.org

Dear Councilman,

Mr. Paul Koretz

Mr. Mitch O'Farrell

Mr. Curren Price

Mr. Bob Blumenfield

Mr. David Ryu

I hope this finds you doing well. Unfortunately, I am not happy at all about what I have just read.

I am a recipient of the Care2Action Petitions, and the Plea below was e-mailed to me regarding Billy the Elephant. I have attached it for your review.

I am writing to you to **PLEASE RELEASE** this precious animal from a CRUEL existence of which no living creature should be subjected; let alone for 30 years!!!! This is a deplorable situation. Billy is completely isolated and alone and separate from other elephants? I am very surprised that a ZOO would not know more about the natural habitats for the animals of which they have been entrusted. Disgraceful.

We have almost 100,000 signatures, and I ask you to seek your heart on this matter, and demand that **ALL** of the Elephants at the LA Zoo be released to a property Elephant Sanctuary, as they obviously have no business taking care of ANY of them.

I ask for your immediate and swift action!

Thank you in advance, Gentleman! I pray that you will do the right thing.

For the love of Elephants,

Stacy Williams
Nashville, Tennessee

Billy the elephant spends his day swaying, rocking side to side, and bobbing his head due to frustration, boredom, and depression.

Billy has spent nearly 30 years at the Los Angeles Zoo all alone in a cramped enclosure. After public outcry and a lawsuit a few years ago, the Los Angeles Zoo promised to build a bigger and better enclosure for Billy that would be much more like his natural environment.

But when Care2 member Karen visited Billy after he was installed in the new elephant exhibit, she was shocked to see that his "bigger and better" enclosure was still tiny and separate from the other elephants. Even worse, Billy was still displaying the same troubling swaying and head-bobbing behavior as before.

Karen was so outraged by what she saw at the Los Angeles Zoo that she created a Care2 petition demanding that the zoo release Billy to an animal sanctuary. Will you sign it?

Worried about Billy's condition, Karen spoke to the zoo attendant on duty at the exhibit to see if the elephant was getting proper care. **The attendant showed no awareness of Billy's basic needs, including the need for daily exercise.** He told her that the elephants were simply rotated from one enclosure to another.

In the wild, elephants roam several miles a day, which helps them maintain healthy joints and feet. They are also highly intelligent, sensitive, and social animals who need to be engaged by their surroundings in order to be happy.

Karen is worried that without proper exercise, a stimulating enclosure, and interaction with other elephants, Billy will succumb to a premature death like so many other elephants kept in captivity.

The new elephant exhibit is not at all what the Los Angeles Zoo promised it would be. It seems to Karen that the new exhibit was built more to impress paying visitors than to meet Billy's needs.

The Los Angeles Zoo responded to public pressure once, even if the results were not what we hoped they would be. If enough of us speak out again, we may be able to put enough pressure on them to finally do the right thing. **So sign Karen's petition right now to demand that the Los Angeles Zoo release Billy the elephant to a sanctuary.**

Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>
To: Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Wed, Jun 7, 2017 at 10:50 AM

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