



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: FREE BILLY THE ELEPHANT FROM THE L.A. ZOO!

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:05 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
 Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:38 AM
 Subject: Fwd: FREE BILLY THE ELEPHANT FROM THE L.A. ZOO!
 To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 25, 2017

Eric Villanueva
 Office of the City Clerk
 200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 213-978-1075



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

From: **Leslie Hodgson** <lesliejudges@hotmail.com>
 Date: Thu, May 25, 2017 at 1:57 PM
 Subject: FREE BILLY THE ELEPHANT FROM THE L.A. ZOO!
 To: "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "david.ryu@lacity.org" <david.ryu@lacity.org>
 Cc: "Clerk.CPS@lacity.org" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>, "Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org" <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>

Hello,

I understand a resolution is before City Council to release Billy the elephant to a sanctuary. I urge you to fully consider this motion. Billy has lived at the zoo for almost 30 years in a small enclosure. He has shown symptoms of stress, most likely due to frustration or depression.

Elephants need to naturally roam to be healthy and emotionally satisfied. Unfortunately, Billy has not been able to experience this kind of life for 30 years. This is absolutely animal cruelty.

I strongly urge you to send Billy to a sanctuary where he can live his remaining years in peace.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Leslie Hodgson



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: BILLY - The Elephant

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:05 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: BILLY - The Elephant
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 26, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **Jerri Miller** <jujem@dslextreme.com>
Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 12:43 PM
Subject: BILLY - The Elephant
To: Eric Villanueva <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>

I'm writing to **IMPLORE** you to do **ALL** in your power to **FREE BILLY** from the Los Angeles Zoo.

Billy has been held captive in the zoo for too many years and deserves the freedom of a sanctuary willing to take him in.

Please do the right thing by Billy and set the wheels in motion to stop the Abuse of forcing Billy to live in the confines of a zoo, and send him to a life of freedom which he deserves!

Please be a hero for BILLY THE ELEPHANT!

Thank you

Jerri Miller

12518 Martha St.

No Hollywood, Ca. 91607

jujem@dslextreme.com



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: BILLY the Elephant

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:05 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: BILLY the Elephant
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 26, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **Jerri Miller** <jujem@dslextreme.com>
Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 12:45 PM
Subject: BILLY the Elephant
To: Eric Villanueva <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>

I'm writing to **IMPLORE** you to do **ALL** in your power to **FREE BILLY** from the Los Angeles Zoo.

Billy has been held captive in the zoo for too many years and deserves the freedom of a sanctuary willing to take him in.

Please do the right thing by Billy and set the wheels in motion to stop the Abuse of forcing Billy to live in the confines of a zoo, and send him to a life of freedom which he deserves!

Please be a hero for **BILLY THE ELEPHANT!**

Thank you

Jerri Miller

12518 Martha St.

No Hollywood, Ca. 91607

jujem@dslextreme.com



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: Please Let Billy the Elephant Stay Home

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:06 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: Please Let Billy the Elephant Stay Home
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 26, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **David Keliher** <davesavepigs@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, May 26, 2017 at 6:15 PM
Subject: Please Let Billy the Elephant Stay Home
To: "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "david.ryu@lacity.org" <david.ryu@lacity.org>
Cc: "Clerk.CPS@lacity.org" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>, "Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org" <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>

May 26, 2017

PLEASE Dismiss the Motion to Send Billy the Elephant to a Sanctuary

Dear Councilmembers,

Please dismiss the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary and do not prevent our Zoo from breeding elephants that are rapidly disappearing in the wild. As an AV Tech at the Los Angeles Zoo, I have seen firsthand the tremendous care that we provide to Billy every day. There is a video that is located here:

<http://www.lazoo.org/bestforbilly/>

that does a wonderful job of highlighting the care and love and compassion and support that Billy receives. I recommend you watch it.

Here's the deal. I'm an English major. And though English majors may not be good at building machines or balancing the books, one thing they are good at is looking at both sides of an issue, listening to experts, and cutting to the chase. Well, I've looked at both sides, and I have concluded

that the Zoo is on the right side of this issue. Please listen to the experts on both sides, and you will see the Zoo is in the right.

Below are some of the points that support the Zoo. Please read them. And please do what is right for Billy and let him stay in the only home he has ever known.

“Here's why Billy should stay at the Zoo:

- Billy is receiving the best care possible. Our Zoo is an AZA-accredited facility, which means we're held to the highest standards of animal management and welfare practices – and we're regularly inspected to ensure compliance with all levels of this care.
- Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat in the history of the L.A. Zoo and vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).
- Elephants are highly intelligent and sociable animals, and they form deep emotional bonds. Billy has had companions during all of his 28 years at the L.A. Zoo, including his current companions Tina and Jewel. He has also become attached to his keepers and, after decades together, they are part of his “herd.”
- While I respect the work of well-run sanctuaries, they simply do not have the staff, resources or facilities to provide the daily care, exercise and mental stimulation that Billy receives here at the Zoo. Also, since Billy is a bull, he wouldn't be allowed to mate and he would be kept separate from any other elephants at the sanctuary.
- Billy is an ambassador for his endangered species and the conservation of animals and habitats everywhere.
- He is an important member of the AZA Asian elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP). Participation in the SSP program is a critical component of AZA accreditation and ensures sustainable populations.
- With nearly 1.8 million people visiting the L.A. Zoo annually, Billy, along with Tina and Jewel, are raising awareness every day about the urgent need to save their wild counterparts from extinction.

I have worked at the zoo for over twelve years and it is the best job I have ever had. Every day I walk around the zoo and greet the people who work there. We all care about our zoo and we care about the animals. And the people who care for our animals, and that includes Billy, want to do what's best for him. I ask you do the same and let him stay home.

Thank you.
Peace and hugs.

Dave Keliher
925 Manzanita St. #1
Los Angeles, CA 90029
213-458-1293
davesavepigs@yahoo.com



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: Opposition to moving Billy elephant from LA Zoo

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:06 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:41 AM
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to moving Billy elephant from LA Zoo
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 27, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **Chase LaDue** <chase.ladue@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, May 27, 2017 at 4:34 PM
Subject: Opposition to moving Billy elephant from LA Zoo
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

To whom it may concern:

My name is Chase LaDue, and I am a PhD student at George Mason University. I am an elephant researcher, focusing on the behavior, biology, and welfare of captive elephants. **I am writing you to formally oppose the transfer of Billy, an Asian elephant currently residing at the Los Angeles Zoo.**

I have had the privilege to work with about twenty elephant facilities across North America, including the LA Zoo. I can personally attest to the high level of care that Billy, Jewell, and Tina receive from their dedicated keepers. Some citizens have voiced concern that Billy is housed separately from the two other zoo elephants. **This concern is scientifically groundless:** solitary adult males like Billy are virtually universal in wild conditions. In Asian elephant society, adult males travel alone between female groups to search for mates. Billy frequently has visual, auditory, and olfactory access to the female elephants. Because Jewell and Tina are considered geriatric (and therefore post-reproductive), housing Billy separate from the females is in the best interest of the elephants and the zoo. If Billy were to be moved to a different facility, I can assure you that the housing conditions would be the same (probably even worse); any other facility claiming that they know how to house Billy better is uninformed and/or politically motivated.

The conditions in which the LA Zoo elephants live are well above established industry standards, including the US Department of Agriculture, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Elephant Managers Association. The LA Zoo is subject to a variety of regulations that ensure the optimal care for elephants, and the people entrusted to care for Billy and the other elephants regularly network with other elephant professionals, insuring that their practices continue to evolve with our growing scientific understanding of elephants. The LA Zoo has proven their dedication to the elephants in their care and around the world: very few people ever make it to Africa or Asia to see elephants, opportunities that are increasingly rare with wild elephants being forced to compete with humans. Zoos provide most people with their only opportunity to be in the presence of a live elephant. In Los Angeles and other cities across the US, this is simply the best way to form a positive connection between people and elephants and encourage conservation-minded behavior.

I encourage you and your colleagues to consider what I have said seriously. Research has shown that elephants are a lot like people: they are cognitively complex, aware of their surroundings, and long-lived. To remove Billy from the LA Zoo—where he has lived since 1989, where he has formed significant connections with the people who care for him, and where he will continue to receive the high level of care to which he is accustomed—would be unfounded and unwise.

I would be happy to address any questions, comments or concerns you have at chase.ladue@gmail.com or (972) 529 – 8681.

Best regards,

Chase LaDue, MSc

Department of Environmental Science and Policy

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: billy the elephant

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:06 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:42 AM
Subject: Fwd: billy the elephant
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 28, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: <hobys@home@verizon.net>
Date: Sun, May 28, 2017 at 9:35 PM
Subject: billy the elephant
To: paul.koretz@lacity.org, .councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, Clerk.CPS@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

I am responding to the motion of moving the elephant Billy to a sanctuary from the zoo. First, this sanctuary is not even up and running so you have no idea where this beautiful animal is going and to whom may be caring for him. He is in the best home he can possibly have right where he is. This zoo has proven their capabilities of caring for animals and successfully running captive breeding programs such as the ones for the California condor and the Peninsular pronghorn, just to name a few.

Why would you let such a magnificent animal go to an unknown entity with below average care? This poor animal needs companionship and he has that right where he is. At a sanctuary, because he is a full grown bull elephant, he will be housed alone. He will be unhappy alone. He needs to stay with the family he knows and currently he has now.

Way too many people think they can care for fully grown male animals when in fact they really have no knowledge of what it really takes to accomplish that task. Furthermore, the political factors behind the extremists agenda is all a smoke screen. Many rescues really are not helping the animals but just have found a new way to make money, a new way to market animals with no inventory cost.

Being a politician you should be backing your local zoo. It has the financial capabilities to keep those in their care up to date with the best medical vet care available, plus they educate the public. Rescues tend to run out of money and are always begging for more and the animals are the losers. The actors and pet owners are totally not capable of making decisions on such an animals life. They do not have the knowledge a zoo has acquired over many years of extremely large animal husbandry. The zoo has many more contacts with which to keep such animals in the best condition known to man.

Pam Bethards



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: Moving Billy from the LA Zoo

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:06 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:42 AM
Subject: Fwd: Moving Billy from the LA Zoo
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 28, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: <plutoxin6@aol.com>
Date: Sun, May 28, 2017 at 10:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: Moving Billy from the LA Zoo
To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org
Cc: Clerk.CPS@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

Please find forwarded below the letter I emailed to Mr. Paul Koretz on April 30, 2017. I still standby this letter and I am sending it to all of you as well. As the prior Director of Membership for GLAZA I not only took my position very seriously, but understand the work and care that goes into housing and maintaining quality of life not only for Zoo animal residents, but the paying patrons of Los Angeles County and abroad. Very few can ever afford to travel to see these animals live in the wild. Having worked at cultural institutions for fifteen years and starting in education at NHM, I would hear children all the time say "Is it real?"

There is no substitute for the real thing for education and appreciation. Many children may grow up to be the next Zoo Director, or Keeper, or Biological Scientist, or Veterinarian, or Membership Director, or High Level Donor (like Slash). Aside from the extensive care these animals are given, Elephants are a big draw and effect the financial bottom line, as we have seen with the end of Barnum and Bailey's Circus. The Zoo is not a circus. The Zoo was the one "museum" I worked at that fronts as an amusement park. I was aware of it then in my first week of working there, and I'm aware of that now. It is first and foremost a research sanctuary of the City of Los Angeles, and I was surprised to find how many people in this city did not even know that we had a Zoo. And it's a big Zoo.

Please read below. Aside from the monetary issues of both expense and revenue generated at the Zoo, the true issue is the health and wellbeing of Billy. Moving any person/animal is traumatic. Billy would have to readjust to not only his surroundings, but form a bond with new caregivers who do not yet know his quirks and temperament, not to mention his missing the others he has grown to know and care about. If anything this is an act of animal cruelty and not necessary. Not only is this unnecessary for the wellbeing of Billy, but for the City as a whole. It is my hope that you will weigh these circumstances in regards to your decision for a positive outcome.

I thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Gillian Efros

—Original Message—

From: plutoxin6 <plutoxin6@aol.com>
To: paul.koretz <paul.koretz@lacity.org>
Sent: Sun, Apr 30, 2017 2:35 pm
Subject: Moving Billy from the LA Zoo

Dear Mr. Paul Koretz,

I am writing to you today, very concerned about your measure to move Billy to a Sanctuary from his long term home at the Los Angeles Zoo. The Zoo has been Billy's home for the majority of his life and is not only an accredited AZA institution, but the City Zoo, as you well know. I don't understand why this is coming up again seven years later after the first issue with him and the building of Elephants of Asia, which after many council meetings was put to rest. Who are these supposed professionals that claim it would be better to move him to a Sanctuary?

Moving is extremely stressful, not only for humans, but for other species, as they have to adapt to a new environment and bond with new care takers. On top of this, the L.A. Zoo, as you well know is a research facility employing exceptional staff in Mammalogy and Veterinary and Behavioral Science, as well as a public park. The Los Angeles Zoo has better medical care for its animals, containing a high tech medical facility on-site. The medical care that these animals receive is better than what over 80% of the Los Angeles County population can afford for themselves.

How do I know this? Like you I'm a native Los Angeleno. Fourth generation, in fact, and my mother and I also went to Hamilton, and like you I graduated from UCLA. I also was the prior Director of Membership at GLAZA. Everyone I came in contact with at the Zoo who worked on the City side does their job in animal care because they love animals and what they do. As you know, John Lewis, Zoo Director, was himself a keeper in his early career. I have seen the medical facility and habitats first hand. This intimate knowledge was how I was able to raise the highest revenue and member counts GLAZA had ever obtained at that time. We were able to achieve this during the worst economy since the Great Depression. I also ended up at our Alma Mater in the ICU for over six weeks fighting for my life which ended my career.

As you also well know, UCLA works with the LA Zoo for Zoobiquity in helping to care for the animals and combine medical research which is well documented in Barbara Natterson's book of the same name. Can any Sanctuary provide that kind of specialization in animal habitat and care? Will they really be able to provide a better living situation with the stress of habituation? Is moving Billy worth possibly doing irreparable damage to his life?

I commend you for your attention to animal care matters and animal cruelty but I beg of you to re-examine your position and really think this decision through because moving Billy this late in his life would be cruel.

Respectfully Yours,

Gillian Efros



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: Send Billy to Sanctuary and End Captive Breeding at the Los Angeles Zoo

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:07 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:43 AM
Subject: Fwd: Send Billy to Sanctuary and End Captive Breeding at the Los Angeles Zoo
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 29, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **Marly Wexler** <takeaction@idausa.org>
Date: Mon, May 29, 2017 at 12:19 PM
Subject: Send Billy to Sanctuary and End Captive Breeding at the Los Angeles Zoo
To: Eric Villanueva <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>

May 29, 2017

Mr. Eric Villanueva

Dear Mr. Villanueva,

As a Los Angeles constituent and a supporter of California-based In Defense of Animals that represents over 250,000 supporters, I urge you to support Councilman Koretz's motion to free Billy, the lone bull elephant at the Los Angeles Zoo, to an accredited GFAS (Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries) sanctuary as soon as possible. We also ask the same for the female elephants at the exhibit, Tina and Jewell.

Billy's plight at the LA Zoo has been a focus of In Defense of Animals for over 12 years. The inadequate conditions that he is forced to live in, despite costly renovations to the Elephants of Asia exhibit, continue to negatively impact his well-being.

Through the LA Zoo's breeding program, Billy has been forced to endure a highly invasive procedure to collect his semen for the purpose of artificially inseminating females at other zoos for breeding. According to zoo documents, Billy underwent "training" for the actual semen collection process at least 55 times between January 20, 2011 and

November 14, 2014.

This procedure is inhumane and invasive. While this has been touted as a practice of "conservation," the data shows that it is nothing of the sort, with elephants in zoos dying in captivity faster than they can reproduce due to the unnaturally high mortality rates of elephants in captivity. The only real way conservation for elephants can occur is in the wild and a certified elephant sanctuary is the closest thing to a natural environment that we can give to Billy.

There is no science- or conservation-based justification for the LA Zoo to keep Billy or ANY of the elephants, including females Tina and Jewel - in captivity. The scientifically validated negative effects of captivity on elephants are irrefutable and well documented.

Los Angeles must seize this opportunity for leadership on humane animal welfare issues and policy. Therefore, we urge you to support the relocation of Billy to a GFAS-certified sanctuary to transfer elephants Tina and Jewel as well - end all elephant captivity and elephant breeding programs at the LA Zoo immediately. +

Sincerely,

Miss Marly Wexler
4314 1/2 Campus Ave
San Diego, CA 92103-2407
(917) 767-3321
marlywexler@cox.net



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: Dismiss Motion to Send Billy to a Sanctuary

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:07 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:44 AM
Subject: Fwd: Dismiss Motion to Send Billy to a Sanctuary
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 30, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **Robert Weissenberg** <rweissenberg@lazoo.org>
Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 3:23 PM
Subject: Dismiss Motion to Send Billy to a Sanctuary
To: "paul.koretz@lacity.org" <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "david.ryu@lacity.org" <david.ryu@lacity.org>
Cc: "Clerk.CPS@lacity.org" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>, "Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org" <Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org>

5/30/2017

Dear Members of the Council,

I implore you to dismiss the motion that would send Billy to a sanctuary and stop the elephant breeding programs at the L.A. Zoo. As an employee of the L.A. Zoo, I witness the extraordinary care that we provide to Billy on a daily basis.

Billy's home is here at the L.A. Zoo, at Elephants of Asia, which is among the best elephant habitats in North America. It's a truly state-of-the-art facility, with top-notch resources and exemplary healthcare, and a wonder to behold. He is cared for every day by a dedicated, extremely knowledgeable, and caring staff.

I am extremely passionate about animals and their welfare, which is why I work here at the L.A. Zoo. For his sake and the sake of the endangered species (*Elephas maximus*) he represents, I ask that you allow Billy to remain here, at the L.A. Zoo, his true home.

Thank you very much,

Robert Christopher Weissenberg

5331 Cahuenga Blvd., Apt. #6
North Hollywood, CA 91601



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: Billy belongs at the L.A. Zoo

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:07 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:44 AM
Subject: Fwd: Billy belongs at the L.A. Zoo
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 30, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **Jeannette Barreiro** <coralito1974@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 4:53 PM
Subject: Billy belongs at the L.A. Zoo
To: paul.koretz@lacity.org
Cc: Clerk.CPS@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org



Dismiss Motion to Send Billy to a Sanctuary

May 28, 2017

Dear Councilmember,

I'm writing to urge you to dismiss the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary and to halt all elephant breeding programs at the Los Angeles Zoo. As a Curator of Education at the Los Angeles Zoo, I witness the care that we provide to Billy every day. It is exemplary. He has been an ambassador of conservation not only for Asian elephants but for all other animals who are classified as threatened or endangered. I have been an employee the Los Angeles Zoo and the City of Los Angeles for over 17 years. I have dedicated my career to Conservation Education in an institution that I am very proud to be a part of. I know the care and dedication that goes into keeping the animals at our City Zoo. I would not work here if at any moment I didn't think that the welfare of the animal came first. We have a dedicated team of Animal Care staff that take their jobs very seriously. They are my coworkers and I am very proud of them. If we lose the support and confidence of our Council members than that weakens us as a department and as a city. Questioning the care that goes towards Billy makes me feel that all the years I have been here have been in vain and that all the Conservation Education I have shared with the children of Los Angeles has been a farce. Do not discredit our years of experience, our careers, our education, and our dedication by removing one of our animals. Continue supporting us so we intern can continue our fight for the survival of not only our local wild life but of all the animal species around the world. Billy is the representative of this fight and his home and "sanctuary" is the Los Angeles Zoo. Support your Zoo. We do a fantastic job here. Come and visit us and talk to us before you decide to go against us.

Elephants of Asia is Billy's home. In fact, the L.A. Zoo is the only home that Billy has ever known. Billy lives in one of the best – and largest – elephant habitats in North America in a state-of-the-art facility that has tremendous resources, top-quality health care and a dedicated staff.

Here's why Billy should stay at the Zoo:

- Billy is receiving the best care possible. Our Zoo is an AZA-accredited facility, which means we're held to the highest standards of animal management and welfare practices – and we're regularly inspected to ensure compliance with all levels of this care.
- Elephants of Asia is the largest habitat in the history of the L.A. Zoo and vastly exceeds the standards of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).
- Elephants are highly intelligent and sociable animals, and they form deep emotional bonds. Billy has had companions during all of his 28 years at the L.A. Zoo, including his current companions Tina and Jewel. He has also become attached to his keepers and, after decades together, they are part of his "herd."
- While I respect the work of well-run sanctuaries, they simply do not have the staff, resources or facilities to provide the daily care, exercise and mental stimulation that Billy receives here at the Zoo. Also, since Billy is a bull, he wouldn't be allowed to mate and he would be kept separate from any other elephants at the sanctuary.
- Billy is an ambassador for his endangered species and the conservation of animals and habitats everywhere.

- He is an important member of the AZA Asian elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP). Participation in the SSP program is a critical component of AZA accreditation and ensures sustainable populations.
- With nearly 1.8 million people visiting the L.A. Zoo annually, Billy, along with Tina and Jewel, are raising awareness every day about the urgent need to save their wild counterparts from extinction.

I work at the L.A. Zoo because I care passionately about animals. For the sake of the endangered species that Billy represents, I ask that you let Billy stay at his home in the L.A. Zoo.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Jeannette C. Barreiro
884 S. Garfield Ave
Monterey Park CA 91754



Yahoo Mail Stationery



Carolina Peters <carolina.peters@lacity.org>

Fwd: Subject: Motion to Send Billy the Elephant to Sanctuary

1 message

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

Wed, May 31, 2017 at 10:08 AM

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

From: **Eric (Roderico) Villanueva** <eric.villanueva@lacity.org>
Date: Wed, May 31, 2017 at 9:44 AM
Subject: Fwd: Subject: Motion to Send Billy the Elephant to Sanctuary
To: Staci Roberts <staci.roberts@lacity.org>

May 30, 2017

Eric Villanueva
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St. Rm. 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1075



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

From: **Betty Dunbar** <Betty@the-dunbars.com>
Date: Tue, May 30, 2017 at 5:15 PM
Subject: Subject: Motion to Send Billy the Elephant to Sanctuary
To: paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, Clerk.CPS@lacity.org, Eric.Villanueva@lacity.org

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm respectfully writing to urge you to dismiss the motion to send Billy to a sanctuary and to halt the elephant breeding programs at the Los Angeles Zoo. I believe this is the wrong thing to do.

As a long-time volunteer at the Los Angeles Zoo, I have witnessed the care that our professional staff has provided to Billy every day I am in the Zoo, one to three times a week for the past for 35+ years. The care of Billy is not only professional but in fact, is mandated by the standards of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

I do not live in the City of Los Angeles but I consider Los Angeles my home. I have proudly lived in the Greater Los Angeles area since 1963. I have served the Zoo and thus, the City, as a volunteer at the Los Angeles Zoo since 1982. I have learned the City by driving through neighborhoods off the 405, the 91 and then the 105, the 110, the 5 and, occasionally, the 134 on my way home to avoid freeway jams. I know and love all our diverse neighborhoods where I stop for my errands.

As a "Los Angeles resident" and as a long-time member of the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association, the non-profit which supports the Zoo, I feel qualified to speak on this subject.

I have seen the Zoo grow from its opening in 1966, when I took our young children. The trees and other plants were immature and small and now it is a beautiful garden, exhibiting rare and endangered plants and animals in natural habits. I have seen the protocols and exhibits improve as the knowledge learned by professionals, both in zoos and in the wild, has been shared in national and international professional conferences, i.e., the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. I have seen many changes at the Zoo during my time volunteering -- all positive. I have only seen exemplary care.

I was already serving the Zoo in the early 1980s when Billy arrived. He was a delightful little guy with his mischievous antics as he harassed the female elephants. A whack of their trunks didn't seem to faze him as he darted away from them. I have watched him grow into a magnificent bull. The Los Angeles Zoo is his home. He knows his surroundings, he knows the professional staff who gives him excellent care, and he knows the zoo's other residents by their sounds and smells.

Billy deserves the chance to reproduce and pass on his genes. He would not be allowed to do that in a sanctuary. Aren't there enough elephants being killed in the wild on a regular basis without having to condemn Billy to a less than perfect life as an elephant than he would have in his habitat at the Zoo where he could reproduce?

Billy is a beautiful example of what is important about saving a species in the wild. You cannot impart that information to young minds without the real thing -- to see up close, to smell, to hear trumpet, to be awed and inspired, as are the 1.8 million people who visit the Zoo annually.

And, finally, I volunteer at the Zoo because I care passionately about animals -- those residents of zoos and other learning institutions and those struggling to survive in the wild. Billy represents an endangered species, a hope for the future of elephants in the wild. I care passionately about education too, a necessity to understanding the natural world. Please keep Billy in his home in the Los Angeles Zoo so he can be the elephant that inspires the children who visit the zoo on school tours every day.

By the way, I am 76 years old and a former software executive. I have no plans to discontinue my service to the Zoo any time soon. It is now my life's work; the Zoo is my home too. My husband and I will travel to Tanzania to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary later this year. This will be our third trip to see the African elephants. Unfortunately, not everyone is able to experience elephants in their natural habitat so we must rely on our educational institutions, such as zoos, to provide the connection to nature that they miss by living in a city as large as Los Angeles.

Thank you for considering my letter in your decision.

Most respectfully,

Betty Dunbar

Hermosa Beach