



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
FEDERATION OF LABOR,
AFL-CIO

Marla Elena Durazo
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Ricardo R. Icaza
President

October 21, 2013

Council President Herb Wesson
Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring Street, Rm 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 1/21/14
Submitted in PAW Committee
Council File No: 12-0186
Item No.: 2
Deputy: Adam R. Lid

RE: LA County Federation of Labor's Opposition to proposal to ban elephants from circuses (City Council Item Number 12-0186)

Dear Council President Wesson:

On behalf of Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the working families that we represent, we would like to express our strong opposition to the proposed ban of elephants in circuses and other traveling shows in the City of Los Angeles (City Council Item Number 12-0186) that is on the City Council meeting agenda for October 23, 2013.

We do so for the following reasons:

- We support our animals. A proposal to ban a legitimate husbandry and worker safety tool is unnecessary and offensive to Brothers and Sisters from Teamsters Local 688 that work hard to care for the elephants and other animals that perform with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. It is hard working Teamsters who spend their working lives travelling throughout the country caring for these and would prevent Ringling Bros. and other elephant exhibitors from returning to Los Angeles.
- The proposed ban would also have an adverse impact on the employment in the City of Los Angeles of not only of Teamsters, but also of the musicians (American Federation of Musicians), Stagehands (IATSE Local 33), Parking Personnel (Teamsters), and Food and Beverage concessions workers (UNITE HERE Local 11). The proposed ban would hurt more than 1,237 jobs with total of 38,923 hours worked during the circus shows in Staples Center. The value of these work hours totals up to \$945,431.21 in direct wages and benefits. **During these trying economic times, instead of creating good middle class jobs and continue to lower our record level unemployment, this policy, if passed, will cut hours of work that contribute to the income and maintenance of benefits for workers and their families.**
- Finally, this proposal was prepared without any opportunity for input by the hard working men and women who take of the elephants in the circus. Yet its recommendation, if adopted, would deprive them of their livelihood while also negatively impacting countless jobs right here in Los Angeles. Such an unbalanced and unfair process has produced a Report that should not be viewed as credible and should not be adopted or even considered.

In closing, given all these problems, we urge you reject this unfair and disingenuous motion and its recommendations.

Sincerely,


Marie Elena Durazo

Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

2130 W. James M. Wood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90006
(213) 381-5611
fax (213) 383-0772



CC: Los Angeles City Council Members