

Communication from Public

Name: Corinne Dellosso

Date Submitted: 02/16/2020 11:31 PM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the ordinance as it is currently written: No exemption for filming Performing Animal Show definition must be changed
Conservation and Education are vital to our existence with beautiful animals in our world

Communication from Public

Name: David Meyers

Date Submitted: 02/16/2020 09:31 AM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the ordinance as it is currently written. No exemption filming performing animal show definition needs to be altered. Conservation and Education are an important and vital to our existance with the amazing and beautiful animals in our world. The new language added to this ordinance that would have a large negative impact on each of your constituents and their buisnesses. I would also eradicate large conservation organizations events that spend a huge amount of money in the city. This will literally devastate the efforts for true animal people to educate the greater population of Los Angeles. If this ordinance passes there will be a trickle down effect that will harm many people and jobs that are intertwined to the animal community directly and indirectly.

Communication from Public

Name: PJ Saunders

Date Submitted: 02/16/2020 09:42 AM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the ordinance as it is currently written: No Exemption for Filming Performing Animal Show definition must be changed. Conservation and Education are vital to our existence with beautiful animals in our world.

Communication from Public

Name: Leslie Gordon

Date Submitted: 02/16/2020 10:22 AM

Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Council Members, Thank you for taking the time to read these comments. I would like to request that 16-1367 once again be considered for further review. I have some suggestions for revisions that may help. I am a wildlife educator/ care Manager at a major science institution in LA, and it appears that this ordinance would negatively impact my work and that of my colleagues, even those with the highest of standards, or accreditation. It would also impact legitimate smaller organizations who do great work at schools, parks and other local events by appealing to the hearts and minds of the people of LA. Research shows that people exhibit stronger emotional response and learn more when they interact with live animals, even briefly. I am happy to supply these studies if interested. These connections that legitimate organizations can make with people to wildlife matter to the future of our native flora and fauna, and to the future of the PAW committee's mission. I am appreciative that the last round of revisions attempted to include provisions for legitimate businesses and education organizations. However, I am still concerned some of the criteria are still too loosely defined, do not even exempt the experiences at large institutions, and leave too much up to the judgment or experience of individual officers. 1. I would like to request that the council speak with neutral biologists such as the Herpetologist, Entomologist or Mammalogist at the Natural History Museum, not ones supplied by biased organizations such as PETA, when defining what is a dangerous or exotic animal. Particularly when dealing with reptiles, invertebrates (not even mentioned in this latest version) or other animals the council may be unfamiliar with. For example, some of our native non-venomous snakes can get quite large. Further, what an individual office may deem as "dangerous" may be based only on their fears, not their experience. There are a variety of examples within the arachnid world, for example, most harmless some less so. What criteria would the officer use? 2. Legitimate organizations should not have to pay additional fees or apply for permits every time they want to travel with, for example, a boa constrictor, or a large native kingsnake to a sister institution, or event. This inhibits large facilities from doing their basic routine work, and small organizations from participating at schools or festivals such as the LA County Museum's Nature Fest which has

several animal exhibitors from the region. 3. "Loud or amplified events or where alcohol is served" can represent a wide range of events, many of which are not harmful or stressful to animals. Again local Museums, Zoos, Science Centers with animal exhibits have found ways to do events with amplified music humanely, yet this ordinance would even ban these facilities from any amplified music outright. Please take a moment to imagine applying this ordinance to the County Museum's Nature Fest, First Fridays, The LA Zoo's Roaring Nights, or the California Science Center's Discovery Ball, and you will clearly see it needs to go back for refinement. My suggestions: 1. Instead of requiring a costly travel permit, a small organization could be required to simply keep a record/ be able to document the travel, the welfare measures taken for the event (such as what was the training given to prepare for travel), what rules were enacted for animal welfare and human safety, and show evidence of responsible interactions such as photographs. This way, if there is any concern, the complete picture can be reviewed on site, but also by experienced parties in a neutral location at a later date. As always, animal cruelty laws will immediately protect an obviously suffering animal. But we must also protect the ability of the many right-doers to carry forth, without being preemptively punished for the presumed actions of a few wrong-doers. 2. Review these rules as they apply to events at small and large organizations to find holes in the language. Some of these bigger facilities are completely unaware of these proposed stipulations, and their events coordinators would be glad to tell you about their events with music, and partnerships with smaller groups. 3. Perhaps apply decibel levels at amplified events that are neutral for human and animal alike, measured at animal level, not speaker level. Many of the large organizations have these levels already set and routinely check them for welfare. 4. Again, consult with neutral scientists about what species require restrictions and what do not. Wildlife needs as many advocates as it can get- do not remove us from the battle for public education and advocacy. Thank you for your time, Leslie Gordon, Wildlife Educator and Animal Care Manager

Communication from Public

Name: Charlie Sammut
Date Submitted: 02/16/2020 04:49 PM
Council File No: 16-1357

Comments for Public Posting: Please accept this letter of opposition as a matter of public record for the city council hearing this ordinance's current draft. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss this ordinance with you and the problems associated with it. Unfortunately this new draft puts all professional animal organizations and wildlife educators in a position of becoming serious collateral damage. It serves to accommodate the "bullying" tactics of those not even in your community while doing great harm to those who live and depend on your leadership within your community as well as the children who benefit from them. PLEASE, see the hidden agenda behind those bullying you. I realize you are exhausted from dealing with this issue and tired of reading these responses, but Please, I beg that you read one more... You can still do the right thing with very little effort while accomplishing exactly what you hoped and all could support with this ordinance. Thank you Charlie Sammut
From the desk of Charlie Sammut ~ President, Monterey Zoological ~ Vision Quest Ranch 400 River Road Salinas, CA 93908 24/7 cell: (831) 809-2919 (831) 455-3180 (800) 228-7382 FAX (831)455-1902 www.visionquestranch.com ~ www.montereyzoo.org

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Honorable David E. Ryu
Los Angeles City Council, District 4
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 15, 2020

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Re: Ordinance 16-1357 opposition

Dear Council Members,

Monterey Zoo is a brand new zoological property located in Monterey County California, servicing the many underprivileged schools and children that will never have the resources to travel and benefit from the closest neighboring zoo. Although it might seem as though your ordinance will have no impact on our zoo or life, in fact, the entire zoological community as well as all dedicated and professional education/conservation based businesses across the country will be unintentionally/negatively impacted by your ordinance. For that reason, I would ask that this letter be accepted in opposition to Ord. 16-1357 as currently authored and made matter of record to be added to any studies and/or reports pertaining to the matter.

Sadly, you came so very close to an ordinance that would not only accomplish its true intent but not harm the many established businesses, citizens and children who benefit from the very programs you are harming and possibly shutting down. For certain, you will harm their income and ability to support the many efforts they contribute to. All due to the clearly transparent "bullying tactics" you are experiencing by extremist activist groups today. Tactics you have not even begun to see the last of when those organizations soon attack your city for not enforcing such an ordinance "to the letter" vs "the spirit" of its intent. A letter base upon "their" interpretation! They are implementing such tactics in many places across the country, with your city becoming its next victim.

I personally participated in reviewing your proposed ordinance and helping author the very minor requested edits that would enable 16-1357 to see support by all. To learn yesterday that those edits are not even being considered for reasons of "not wanting to deal with this issue or the pressure of extremist groups any longer" was frightening for it sends a message to all extremist groups that their bullying works! Further, several representatives of the professional education/conservation industries worked with several of you for a long time, arriving at language that all would support. To have that language removed in the final hour giving no time for further discussion again defines a deceptive and unjust system that caters to extremist philosophy vs true science and facts.

www.montereyzoo.org
Monterey Zoo is a
501(c)(3) non-profit
charity - est. Dec. 2011
Tax ID # 26-0391615

Monterey zoo hosts an annual fundraising event that accounts for a great deal of our support for our animals and youth programs. We have hosted this event for twenty years. It is a very high end gala that includes fine dining, fine wine, entertainment, a very educational video presentation, and best of all, animals. This event sells out months prior to all local community and business leaders as well as several California State political

leaders. It has become an evening most do not want to miss. An ordinance written as 16-1357 would in fact bring an end to that event. You see Mr. Ryu, the overhead for that event is greatly covered by our wine sponsors. Their wine is a large part of our evening's gift to our sponsors as well as the wine makers contribution to the zoo and the community. The fine wine is largely a part of what makes it a formal black-tie affair as spectacular and renown as it is in our community.

EVERY ZOO hosts such events Mr. Ryu, as does every large non-profit organization raising funds and awareness for every human illness, children's organization, political campaign, etc.... Every school, youth group and senior care group does the same. I only last month co-sponsored a very similar~ formal dinner for St.Judes Children Hospital that was the exact same format as ours. You have attended these events Mr. Ryu, for many reasons and organizations ~ probably even for your own political campaign events. Formal events of this nature accomplish the MOST for the organization hosting it. Punishing those who raise similar funds and awareness for animals is unjust is unfair. The serving of such beverages does not make those hosting or coordinating these fundraisers any less caring or responsible. In fact, it is just the opposite. The requested edits seemed like such a minor request when all other language in the ordinance still gives the city the complete ability to evaluate and determine just what kind of gathering an event truly is.

Finally, our only other edit simply and more clearly defined the animals to be effect in the same fashion everywhere through the ordinance, again, still giving the city the complete control and ability to evaluate and not permit the true targets of the ordinance.

So PLEASE, I ask you and all the council members, do not adopt this ordinance as currently authored because of the bullying and unjust reasons you are about to do so. PLEASE, give the very community businesses, citizens and children your seat represents, the same concern you are giving those whose bulling agenda is far more reaching than you might be aware of. **Please, delay the vote on this matter and reconsider our requested minor amendments. What we are asking will protect both the ordinance, the city as well as the support so many businesses, employees, animals and industries in the long run, while still giving the city complete control of the true intent of Ord.16-1357.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Sammut". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Charlie Sammut
Founding Director/President, Monterey Zoological