

Communication from Public

Name: Karen Eisenlord
Date Submitted: 05/28/2025 04:36 PM
Council File No: 25-0446

Comments for Public Posting: When I heard through the media that Billy and Tina were transferred to the Tulsa Zoo in Oklahoma on May 20, 2025, I was appalled, shocked and devastated. I have been following Billy for over 20 years at the Los Angeles Zoo, from when he was alone in a tiny enclosure for several years and then, along with three other female elephants, in the new exhibit, which was still not meeting the needs of Billy, as well as the other elephants who were added to the exhibit. All of these elephants increasingly displayed signs of stress and health issues over the years. Since the above, many warnings about the elephants' deteriorating condition and attempts to get the zoo to transfer these elephants to a sanctuary, streamed in continuously, both from the public, organizations, experts, and professionals. Sadly, two of the female elephants died within a year of each other, Jewel and Shaunzi, leaving Tina and Billy. Independent veterinarian reports have consistently warned of this, and that Tina and Billy could be next if not sent to a sanctuary that would better provide their needs, one of these needs being the room to roam and be autonomous. Countless others and I are betrayed once again, but profoundly worse is what this move does to Billy and Tina. It just puts them in another miserable zoo where their needs will not be met and undoubtedly their conditions will continue to worsen. The transfer of Tina and Billy was done without full transparency and accountability. In fact, it blatantly ignored a motion #25-0446 to consider all other possibilities including sanctuary before moving them. It appears that they moved Billy and Tina intentionally just before this motion was to be heard by the City Council, to avoid accountability and transparency. However, this act does not make the Los Angeles Zoo, its director, Denise M. Verret, or Mayor Karen Bass, unaccountable. Legally, this is being pursued on many fronts. They are still responsible for the well-being of these elephants and to the public, which partially funds the zoo. Writ of Habeas Corpus is filed among other things. At least three accredited sanctuaries are ready and willing to take Billy and Tina. One cannot help but think that the Los Angeles Zoo's actions display selfish greed and not what's best for the elephants. The Tulsa Zoo is a breeding zoo, so once again Billy may be subjected to invasive procedures to collect his sperm. Once again, he and Tina are kept in spaces that do not meet the needs of elephants to roam

and forage for their health and well-being. Follow the money and that is where you will find the truth. I suspect that the Los Angeles Zoo did not move Billy and Tina to the Tulsa Zoo for the well-being of these elephants, but for financial incentives. Elephants do not belong in zoos. Many zoos have become cognizant of this and have closed their elephant exhibits sending the surviving elephants to sanctuaries. The Los Angeles Zoo needs to follow suit and have these elephants sent to accredited sanctuaries. Elephants are intelligent, complex, social beings and deserve better! Keeping elephants in zoos is outdated and archaic, if not barbaric. One day the world will look upon this episode and the Los Angeles Zoo will be on the wrong side of history if they do not correct the egregious deed of what they did. Heartbroken,
Karen Eisenlord

Communication from Public

Name: Elvia Sedano

Date Submitted: 05/28/2025 03:07 PM

Council File No: 25-0446

Comments for Public Posting: As part of the public I am asking LA City council bring to Denise Verrett and mayor Karen Bass to answer questions on the sneaky transfer of Billy and Tina. The public wants to know why they would send Billy and Tina to another zoo instead of a sanctuary where there is more space for them.