

RESOLUTION NO. 20140626-080

WHEREAS, according to leading animal rights organizations, circuses routinely use painful devices on animals during training sessions; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2013 the Austin Animal Advisory Commission recommended that the City Council pass an ordinance prohibiting the use of bull hooks and other implements and tools designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training and controlling the behavior of elephants in traveling shows and exhibitions in the city limits of Austin, as well as banning the use of chains or other restraining devices on elephants in traveling shows and exhibitions in the city limits of Austin; and

WHEREAS, other cities such as Tallahassee, Florida, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Louisville, Kentucky, and most recently in May of 2014 Los Angeles, California, have enacted ordinances banning devices likely to cause physical injury, torment or pain to animals; and

WHEREAS, a major circus takes place at The University of Texas Frank Erwin Center, where The University of Texas Police Department has primary jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, upon arrival of a circus or similar acts to the City, the Animal Services Office routinely inspects the animals and reports possible instances of animal cruelty as defined in Chapter 42 of the Texas Penal Code to the Austin Police Department; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager perform actions allowable under the state law with regard to animal inspections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to confer with The University of Texas to express the City's continued concern about the ethical treatment of animals performing in circuses in Austin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

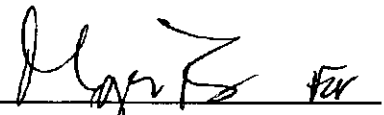
That the City Manager, through the Austin Police Department, coordinate with The University of Texas Police Department to ensure that circus animals are treated humanely, including on-site inspections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the City Manager is directed to determine whether the City of Austin has the authority under state and federal law to enact an ordinance banning devices likely to cause physical injury, torment or pain to animals in circuses, and to return to Council with a memo or draft ordinance by August 7, 2014.

ADOPTED: June 26, 2014

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk