

MOTION

The use of wild and exotic animals, particularly in circuses, has desensitized generations of people and taught our children that it is perfectly acceptable to treat wild and exotic animals as objects or toys. The City of Los Angeles has also seen displays of snakes, reptiles, birds, and non-human primates on the public sidewalk and in parks, where handlers have offered photos with animals in exchange for a monetary donation. At times, the animal handlers are aggressive and the birds and snakes are tossed at unsuspecting visitors to force an interaction.

This use and misuse of wild and exotic animals for personal or public entertainment and financial gain has a long and unfortunate history. The practice has led to tremendous pain for these animals who often suffer from loneliness, malnutrition and the overwhelming stress of lengthy confinements during transport. Further, to get animals to perform "tricks" and other acts unnatural to them, handlers have been repeatedly shown to use inhumane training techniques.

Wild and exotic animals hold instinctive social and physical needs specific or indigenous to their natural environments. If these animals are unable to express their normal behaviors, they can suffer from physical and mental trauma. This behavior impacts the welfare of these animals, which places the safety of the animal and the public at risk.

Los Angeles has long been a leader in protecting wild and exotic animals, including passing a ban on the use of bullhooks in 2014, an effort led by 5th District Councilmember Paul Koretz that led to a ban in California this year. My office has also pushed for tighter rules on private displays of wild and exotic animals after experiencing abuses in my district that included an elephant, lion, and a baby giraffe being rented out as props for private events in the Hollywood Hills.

These efforts are all steps along the way to a more permanent resolution to wild and exotic animal exhibitions. It is time that the City of Los Angeles take action to make clear that exhibiting wild and exotic animals in such a way is no longer in line with our City's values.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance which would prohibit the exhibition of wild or exotic animals for entertainment or amusement, including circuses, other wild or exotic animal shows, and rentals for house parties, with exceptions for accredited zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, legitimate filming purposes, research facilities, and legitimate conservation-related programs or presentations.

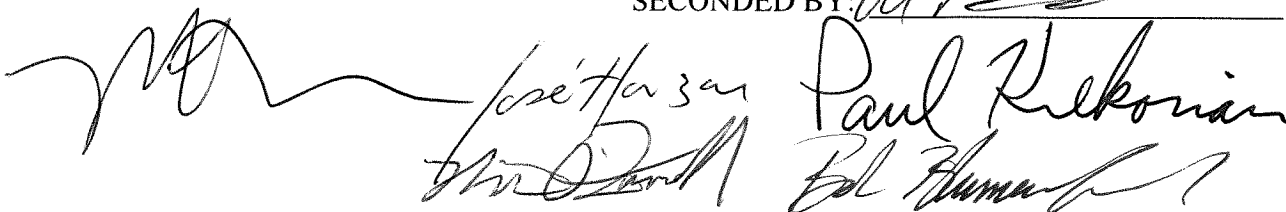
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