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From: John Winston

Sent: Saturday, April 9, 2022 4:50 PM

To: CPSC <[cpsc@london.ca](mailto:cpsc@london.ca)>

Cc: City of London, Mayor <[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <[pvanmeerbergen@london.ca](mailto:pvanmeerbergen@london.ca)>; Brian Child, Mike Lerner, Luc Corneli, Bob Murphy

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reptilia Investment London,Ontario

Dear Members of the Community and Protective Services Committee:

This letter serves to confirm that as the former General Manager of Tourism London, we, along with the LEDC, we're actively engaged in the recruitment of Reptilia to our city. This was a unique investment opportunity that historically has had a successful track record of animal exhibition and welfare.

During my tenure as Tourism London's head, supporting new product development was a strategic priority that I wholeheartedly embraced. This was a rare opportunity for London to host an ultra distinctive attraction that would not only generate private sector investment, jobs and economic benefit, but had the ingredients to engender a one-of-a-kind experience that could provoke an increase of both local and regional visitations alike.

As you know, the tourism industry throughout the province of Ontario, including London and region, has been devastated by the seemingly unending pandemonium that the pandemic has manufactured. More than ever, a Reptilia attraction would contribute to both London and the surrounding regions' tourism sector and its economic recovery.

Our support for this investment was predicated on the fact that Reptilia is committed to robust public safety protocols as well as the exhibition of human acclimated animals that have not been "wild caught". This organization provides a sanctuary for rescued, surrendered or abandon reptiles; furnishes a natural animal environment that properly represents the animal's habitat characteristics; adheres to a stringent commitment to provincially approved standards of animal welfare; provides a provincially endorsed educational curriculum that teaches proper animal well being and appropriate ownership. It also trains emergency response services on the proper handling of abandoned or mistreated reptiles found in residential or other environments.

In summary, we worked diligently and with purpose to sell London as the most viable option for Reptilia. Its investment in our community will positively influence perceptions of reptiles as a whole, and bring to light their contribution to the proper balancing of the worlds ecosystems. It will also provide a rare opportunity to see an exhibition of certain animals never before available in London for a public viewing.

Know that I have no pecuniary interest in this project. My only reason for advocating on Reptilia's behalf is to see this attraction fulfil its complete potential. This is a win-win for London and I urged the committee to support this investment.