

Dear Councillors,

We have been residents of the City of London for over 45 years. As you would expect, we have seen a lot of change over the years. We won't get into some of the things that have happened that have not been as good for the community, but instead, we would like to focus on one particular bylaw that was passed initially in 2011 and has served Londoners and the surrounding area very well for all these years.

This Animal Control bylaw which, thankfully, still exists today, has restricted the display of exotic and dangerous animals in the City of London. Before this bylaw was enacted and enforced we were constantly having to deal with animals of all types being exploited at various venues throughout the City year round. This type of exploitation was not appreciated by most Londoners, hurtful and sometimes deadly to the animals involved and it was such a relief to have this disallowed.

As you can fully imagine, it was quite the shock to hear that the peace and tranquillity enjoyed for all these years was once again being threatened.

We are certain that you are hearing from all sorts of experts about the scientific rationale for why the amendment to the bylaw should be rejected. We will not be reiterating any of these facts and opinions and would only be asking for you to read all of this information and think of the consequences to the animals.

We are not aware of anyone, Mayor or Council, who ran on a platform to amend the bylaw and reintroduce this animal exploitation. With everything else that urgently needs to be dealt with at this time, it's hard to even imagine that this application is being considered.

It is very easy to prognosticate that if this amendment was approved there would be significant costs for Animal Control and the Humane Society as visitors would be encouraged to purchase reptiles as pets. These impulse purchases historically result in rather rapid surrender of the innocent and unwanted creatures to agencies who often do not have the resources to deal with them humanely.

The fact that Reptilia went ahead with its plans despite the knowledge that it had not received the necessary approvals should not be a reason to accept their application.

We do not need this or any other zoo in the City of London.

Please think of what is at stake here for the animals and the president this will set.

We urge you to stick with the existing bylaw with no amendments as it has served us very well over the years. Let's not take a chance on something that everyone will regret later.

Kathleen & Kevin Lomack  
London