

Dear Councillors,

I am contacting you concerning Reptilia. I am asking that the City of London **maintain their 2018 decision to reject Reptilia's request to expand into London Ontario.**

While Reptilia brands itself as a 'zoo and conservation centre', animal rights activists and Marie Blosch - vice-chair of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee - have raised concerns about the welfare of exotic animals kept in captivity. Private zoos have been banned in London more than a decade ago, however, by granting Reptilia an exemption, we run the risk of setting a dangerous precedent for the inclusion of zoos more generally, which ultimately undermine the welfare of exotic animals and the health and safety of those who interact with them.

In addition to trying to circumvent democratic decision making by disregarding the City of London's 2018 decision, Reptilia also recently withdrew their application for amendments to the City of St. Catharine's By-Law 95-212. The company has a disreputable track record of trying to exploit legal loop-holes to turn ultimately turn a profit on exotic animals in towns that, as yet, fortunately do not allow zoos to operate. Conceding to their demands would **harm the interests of both animals and Londoners.**

Yours sincerely,  
Monika Andreetta