

From: Jason Dean

Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 12:28 PM

To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>; Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Exotic Animals Establishments amendments to Animal Control Bylaw and Business Licensing Bylaw- February 14, 2023 Council meeting

Dear Mayor Morgan, Councillor Steven Hillier, and Members of the London City Council,

I hope this letter finds you well. As both an economic researcher and a concerned resident of London, I feel it is my obligation to bring to your attention the proposed modifications to the Animal Control Bylaw PH-3 and Business Licensing Bylaw L.-131-16.

I am submitting this letter to respectfully voice my strong objections to the proposed changes, which would permit the keeping of Class 7 animals that are currently restricted within the City and establish a licensing category for exotic animal businesses. These changes are deeply concerning, and I feel it is imperative that they receive proper consideration.

I have heard claims about the potential economic benefits of such establishments, including job creation and increased tourism. However, I have concerns about the validity of these claims and the potential negative impacts on the City and its residents.

Furthermore, there is a significant risk associated with the escape of exotic animals. The cost of recapturing and caring for escaped animals falls on the City, which can be time-consuming and costly. In addition, the negative publicity associated with such incidents can have a lasting impact on the reputation of the City and potentially deter tourists from visiting.

It is also important to consider alternative forms of economic development that align with the values of the City and promote a positive image, such as eco-tourism and sustainable tourism. These industries have the potential to generate significant economic benefits and create jobs, while also being in line with the City's commitment to environmental sustainability and animal welfare.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to consider the potential negative impacts of exotic animal establishments on the City and its residents and to prioritize alternative forms of economic development that align with the values of the City.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Jason Dean