

From: Mary Dale

Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:48 PM

To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>

Cc: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Exotic Animal Establishments-Bylaw Ammendments-For Feb. 14/23 Council Meeting Agenda

To Whom It May Concern,

After recently coming back to London and meeting some long-time friends for coffee, we got onto the topic of the possibility of Reptilia coming to a London mall. I lived in London for over 40 years, born and raised in the east end, and I can't imagine how this is going to somehow bring new life to a mall...any mall, or be of any benefit to the city or its residents.

I have never been a fan of seeing caged animals/wildlife, even in my younger years, but through my employment, our schools would often take students on class trips to see the animals. What always struck me was that the animals never looked happy or content, and in many cases, the children didn't seem thrilled either. I remember talking to the zookeeper at Storybook Gardens, who was a personal friend of mine, to get his take on the animals in captivity there. I have no doubts that the animals were 'cared for', they got their food and water in their man-made 'habitat', but it wasn't 'natural', and these were the 3 Little Pigs, Billy Goat Gruff, bunnies, Bambi and baby chick's, not Class 7 animals!!

Is a zoo really necessary and viable?? I can see this being a novelty in the beginning, and then what? When attendance and revenue starts to decline, I can see the the overall condition of the business, and the staff, declining as well. Obviously other cities have taken these things into consideration as well and decided against allowing this type of establishment. Looking into past practices of these types of businesses also probably factored into their decisions.

With all the technology available in classrooms today, students and teachers, anyone really, can access all kinds of wonderful, educational animal resources online or on T.V., with up-close and personal videography, capturing their natural habitats, along with detailed, educational narrative components, far superior to any zoo employee's presentation, if there even is one.

It's something I would never visit and for the health and well-being of the animals, I ask that you not make any changes to the city's policy for Class 7 animals.

Kindly,

Mary Butcher