

**From:** Christine Slonetsky

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 10:15 AM

**To:** Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Exotic Animal Establishments Bylaw amendments for Feb 14, 2023 Council meeting agenda

Dear Mayor Josh Morgan and Members of London City Council,

I have been a resident of London, Ontario for over 20 years, and currently live in ward 4.

I am writing to you today to ask you **NOT** to support changes to London's Animal Control ByLaw PH-3 and Business Bylaw L.-131-16 on February 14, 2023, that would allow the keeping of prohibited Class 7 animals in the City and that would establish a license category and regulations governing exotic animal businesses.

It is my understanding that the proposed amendment to add an exemption to London's animal control bylaw came at the request of a private zoo business, namely, Reptillia. I am concerned that this change along with changing the business licensing bylaw may encourage other exotic animal businesses to try to come to London.

While I support the growth of local business, I do not support businesses such as Reptilia and other zoo businesses, that profit from the use and confinement of animals. As you are aware, Class 7 animals "shall mean any animal of a type that is normally found in a wild and natural state, whether or not it has been bred and/or raised in captivity" These animals are meant to be free. History has made it clear that using animals for profit, despite stated intentions, leads to abuse of these animals.

Amending London's bylaw would be a backward step that would erase human and animal safety achieved through past London City Council actions.

In closing, I would like to know if I can count on you to vote **NO** to the proposed amendment's to London's Animal Control Bylaw PH-3 and Business Licensing Bylaw L.-131-16.

Respectfully,

**Dr Christine Slonetsky, ND,MSW,RSW,BA**