Subject: FW: Shrine Circus coming to Hamilton

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From: Nancy [r
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 8:07 PM
To: Eisenberger, Fred
Cc: specialevents@hamiltonspca.com
Subject: Shrine Circus coming to Hamilton

To: Mayor Fred Eisenberger
From: Nancy Jardine-Leygraaf

Re: City By-Law Prohibiting Wild or Exotic Animals

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing as a member of your community, asking you to enact a circus animal by-law to prohibit performances involving wild or exotic animals in our municipality.

Across Canada, many municipalities have passed by-laws that prohibit circuses with wild and exotic animals from performing in their communities. Hamilton needs to do the same. Changes need to be made to municipal bylaws to ensure the abuse of performing animals stops and public safety is upheld.

As a tax paying resident, I am asking that you consider the view of so many Canadians when addressing this issue at Council.

Please consider that:

- 25 jurisdictions in Canada have enacted a by-law prohibiting wild or exotic animals
- circus animals which are not confined to cages may often be chained or tethered up to 90% of the time
- veterinarians, biologists, and animal welfare organizations have condemned the use of exotic and wild animals in circuses
- Between 1990 and 1998, circus elephants have been involved in over 60 incidents of wounding or killing their handlers or spectators
- circuses are not a proper educational venue not only removing animals from their natural ecological context conveys a negative educational message, often these animals become endangered species because of the wildlife trade

As a municipal tax paying citizen, I will be considering your position on protecting animals in performing acts when deciding how to vote in the next city council election.

Please provide me with your position on 1) banning wild or exotic animal circus acts into our jurisdiction; and, 2) supporting circuses that are animal-free. I look forward to your response to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy Jardine-Leygraaf