

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION establishing the City Council's goal of ensuring that Woodland Park Zoo (WPZ) elephants, Chai, Bamboo and Sri, are transferred to an appropriate sanctuary within nine months of the adoption of this Resolution; and that no other elephants are housed within the City in the future.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance 120697, WPZ is currently operated and managed under the Woodland Park Zoo Operations and Management Agreement between the City of Seattle and the Woodland Park Zoological Society (WPZS) dated December 20, 2001 (Agreement);

WHEREAS, Section 15.2 of the Agreement requires WPZS to care for all WPZ animals in accordance with all federal, state and local laws;

WHEREAS, Section 15.3 of the Agreement allows WPZS to acquire or sell or otherwise dispose of zoo animals in the course of WPZS's operation of the zoo but WPZS must do so in strict accordance with all applicable federal, state or local laws, regulations and policies, including any adopted acquisition and disposition policies approved by the City;

WHEREAS, a number of zoos have closed their elephant exhibits, citing lack of space, unsuitable climate, inadequate social groupings, chronic health problems, and premature death suffered by captive zoo elephants, and recognizing that a zoo cannot meet the needs of elephants;

WHEREAS, the weight of scientific authority now recognizes that keeping elephants in zoos cannot be justified and zoos should close their elephant exhibits;

WHEREAS, as the *Scientific American Board of Editors* states that: "Confined elephants often spend their time standing around in cramped quarters....These tortu[r]ous conditions inflict serious physical and psychological damage on such smart and sensitive animals...[I]f zoos

really have the animals' best interests at heart, they would close their elephant exhibits...[C]aptive breeding programs should be terminated." (February and March 2014);

WHEREAS, elephants in the wild typically roam for miles each day, even when food is abundant, and depend on vast amounts of space for their physical well being in addition to strong social bonds with extended social and family networks, and the current WPZ elephant exhibit occupies less than an acre and resident elephants are confined during inclement weather (typically 7 months out of the year) for up to 18 hours each day in small indoor stalls and when outside, they are held in small paddocks;

WHEREAS, Sri, who is currently on loan to the St. Louis Zoo, is housed in a 2 acre exhibit with 9 other elephants and due to long, cold winters, spends most of the year in a 25'x25' stall;

WHEREAS, WPZ elephants display neurotic behaviors that are signs of psychological distress and boredom and have been found to suffer from chronic, painful skin conditions, foot problems, and arthritis due to lack of exercise and standing on hard surfaces;

WHEREAS, a WPZ elephant, Watoto, recently died at age forty-five, decades short of an elephant's natural life span and WPZ elephant Hansa, died in 2007 at the very young age of six years;

WHEREAS, that the health and well-being of elephants cannot be adequately provided for within the WPZ or other areas within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the most suitable environment for WPZ elephants is at a sanctuary that is accredited as an elephant sanctuary by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (Appropriate Sanctuary).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:

Section 1. It shall be the policy of the City Council that WPZ elephants currently housed at WPZ, Chai and Bamboo, shall be promptly transferred to an Appropriate Sanctuary; that the WPZ elephant, Sri, in which the City has an ownership interest and who is housed outside of WPZ also be

promptly transferred to an Appropriate Sanctuary; and that no elephants shall be housed in the City in the future.

Section 2. Within 30 days, of the effective date of this resolution, the City Council will:

A. Identify an Appropriate Sanctuary to which the WPZ elephants can be transferred (Identified Sanctuary). If more than one Appropriate Sanctuary is identified, the Identified Sanctuary will be selected based on proximity to Seattle. The Identified Sanctuary will have committed in writing to the City Council that it can accept the WPZ elephants within six months of the passage of the ordinance as described in Section 3.

B. Require WPZ to finalize a plan, in partnership with the Identified Sanctuary, on the transfer of WPZ elephants to the Identified Sanctuary.

C. Report on progress made in this section at weekly City Council meetings.

Section 3. Within ninety days of the effective date of this resolution, the City Council shall draft and vote on an ordinance (the Ordinance) that:

A. For WPZ elephants currently housed at WPZ, Chai and Bamboo, requires the transfer of these elephants to the Identified Sanctuary within six months of the effective date of the Ordinance.

B. For the WPZ elephant who is currently housed outside of WPZ and in which the City has an ownership interest, Sri, requires the transfer of this elephant to the Identified Sanctuary within six months of the effective date of the Ordinance.

C. For elephants who are not already housed within the City, immediately bans the housing of these new elephants within the City limits.

D. If the Identified Sanctuary states in writing to the City Council that it cannot receive the WPZ elephants within six months as originally committed in writing to the City Council, the timeline can be extended, but shall not exceed twelve months from the effective date of the Ordinance. If

the Identified Sanctuary states in writing to the City Council that it cannot receive the elephants according to this timeline, the City shall follow the process outlined in Section 2 to identify an alternate Approved Sanctuary.

E. Provides that all records related to the implementation of the Ordinance are subject to public inspection including those records generated by WPZ, WPZS, and their contractors or agents without regard to recipient.

Section 4. All records related to the implementation of this resolution are subject to public inspection including those records generated by WPZ, WPZS, and their contractors or agents without regard to recipient.

Section 5. The effective date of this resolution is the date of passage.

Adopted by the City Council the ___ day of _____, 2015, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day of _____, 2015.

President _____ of the City Council of Seattle

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2015.

City Clerk