

May 2nd, 2014

Dear Planning Committee for the City of Hamilton,

As an animal lover I would ask you to please deny the application of Little Ray's Reptile Zoo for exemption from the Responsible Animal Bylaw. I have only recently become aware that a new reptile zoo has opened where the old pet store used to be. Animals are designed to live and function within their own specific habitat which for reptiles covers an exceedingly wide range of macro and micro climates. At best a small reptile facility can offer only the most basic requirements of life so that the animal may survive but they never thrive.

I am at a loss to understand how the reptile zoo can justify handling the animals so frequently or constantly moving them around for different shows and even "birthday parties". Certainly there is nothing natural in a wild animal being handled by humans let alone stuck in plastic tubs and hauled around the province in and out of vehicles and exposed to wide temperature and humidity fluctuations.

I do not understand why they need to have larger or potentially poisonous animals that are not permitted under the city's bylaw. Species diversity is usually the goal in a zoo setting rather than having the biggest or scariest animals. Thinking like that belongs in a circus rather than a zoo. The same goes for the "bring the animals to your place" offers. I can't imagine the zoos in Toronto or Calgary or Washington have zoo parties at your house and I hope they never do.

I do not support the zoo or its application for exemption from the Responsible Animal Ownership bylaw and ask you to decline the request.

Thank you.

Julie Maue

Concerned Hamiltonian

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Maue', written over the printed name.

May 2nd, 2014

Dear Planning Committee for the City of Hamilton,

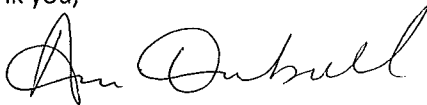
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Concerned Hamiltonian

Ann Turnbull

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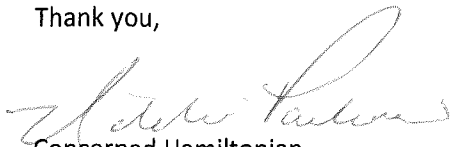
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Thank you,

  
Concerned Hamiltonian  
NATALIE PAVLOVIC


May 5th, 2014

Dear Planning Committee at City of Hamilton,

Upon learning about the recent request for an exemption to the Hamilton Responsible Animal Ownership By-law by Little Ray's Reptile Zoo, I undertook research to learn more about this business and its practices. I was appalled to learn that Little Ray's Reptile Zoo is not a zoo as it suggests but is more like a travelling side show taking the animals in its possession to children's parties, corporate events, fairs, and other public gatherings for a fee. Photos of small children wrapped in large snakes and "petting" crocodiles are both shocking and terrifying. These animals are not only wild, but extremely dangerous should they choose to strike out. How does any responsible adult or parent even think this is a good idea?

As a citizen of Hamilton, I urge you to oppose an exemption of this nature by this business or any such business in the future . Please deny Little Ray's Reptile Zoo's request. I strongly believe that as a City we must safeguard by-laws that are put in place for the protection of adults and children and not consider corporate/monetary gain for one business over the safety of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Jones". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

May 5th, 2014

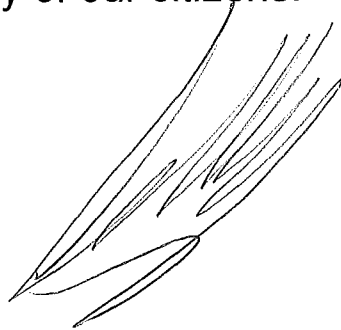
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sarit Zatter'. The signature is stylized with several long, sweeping strokes.

Sarit Zatter

May 5th, 2014

Dear Planning Committee at City of Hamilton,

I am writing today to express my concern about the request by Little Ray's Reptile Zoo to seek exemption from the Hamilton Responsible Animal Ownership By-law. This by-law, prohibiting the ownership of certain animals in the city, was put in place for valid and much needed reasons - the safety and well-being of our residents. The dangerous nature of these wild animals has not changed and so why, I must ask, is the city council considering granting an exemption on this very important by-law. I would suggest that Hamilton should be strengthening its animal control laws and not weakening their stance by permitting an exemption.

As a long time citizen of Hamilton, I respectfully request that you deny this request for an exemption - showing Hamilton for the progressive and responsible community that it is.

Sincerely,

*Lene Dalton*

May 3rd, 2014

Dear Planning Committee at City of Hamilton,

I am a long time resident of Hamilton I was surprised to learn that an exemption to Hamilton's Responsible Animal Ownership By-law was being sought by Little Ray's Reptile Zoo. Notwithstanding the fact that the by-law was put in place to ensure the security of our citizens, the idea of wild animals being carted in plastic containers and crates to carnival-like sideshows for profit is reprehensible. Little Ray's Reptile Zoo is not a zoo as its name suggests, one merely has to look at its business model of selling time with captive and dangerous wild animals at birthday parties, seniors homes and other venues. What are these people thinking?

I ask that you deny this request for an exemption to maintain the ongoing protection of Hamilton's citizens from unneeded threat and to ensure that Hamilton is not complicit in the exploitation of the reptiles and animals in the control of this commercial business.

Sincerely,

*Brenda Duke*  
BRENDA DUKE

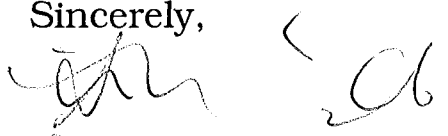
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Rome Mivaldo