

GREATER V GREATER VALLEY GLEN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Government Relations

MEETING DATE: November 25, 2008

(To be submitted to President at least 120 hours in advance of monthly board meeting)

PROPOSED MOTION FOR BOARD ACTION: Zoos cannot provide adequate acreage to accommodate the needs of elephants. In addition, Los Angeles is facing a budget crisis and should not be spending \$42 million on an unnecessary elephant exhibit which cannot provide the space elephants need to survive. The Greater Valley Glen Council asks the LA City Council to halt plans to construct a new elephant exhibit and to immediately send the remaining elephant Billy to a sanctuary where he can experience a degree of freedom.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT (if applicable) – 100 words or less:

(Attach to any applicable Council File) (Council File Number 08-2850) Zoos cannot provide adequate acreage to accommodate the needs of elephants. In addition, Los Angeles is facing a budget crisis and should not be spending \$42 million on an unnecessary elephant exhibit which cannot provide the space elephants need to survive. The Greater Valley Glen Council asks the LA City Council to halt plans to construct a new elephant exhibit and to immediately send the remaining elephant Billy to a sanctuary where he can experience a degree of freedom.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT STATEMENT (if applicable – 100 words or less)*

***all non-operation expenditures must attach Agency or Department Letter Requesting item(s) or donation(s) to Committee prior to Committee vote;**

PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURE (if any): None

IMPACT ON FISCAL YEAR BUDGET ALLOCATION BY CATEGORY & QUARTER:

(1st quarter 7/1-9/30 – 2nd quarter 10/1-12/31 – 3rd quarter 1/1 - 3/31 –
4th quarter 4/1-6/30)

All Non Operational Expense Motions must attach Agency or Department Letter Requesting item(s) or donation(s);

The Issues taken from Minutes at the Government Relations Committee Meeting:

Discussion about proposed new elephant exhibit which will cost the taxpayers \$42 million. Thirteen elephants have died at the LA Zoo. Elephants normally live to 60-70 years, but those in captivity live 20 years or so, and according to experts, suffer greatly. The supporters of the elephant exhibit want a place where they can take their children to see elephants & say the exhibit educates about endangered species. Both sides of this issue were invited to the Government Relations Committee meeting, but no response from them other than a standard response email from Councilmember LaBonge's office. Councilmember Cardenas proposes the exhibit be closed and the remaining elephant be sent to a sanctuary. The City Council will take up this issue again on the day after the GVGC general meeting. It would make more sense for LA to build a virtual elephant exhibit in keeping with LA's image as the entertainment capital of the world.