

From: Karly Gillies
Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2016 1:28 AM
To: CityClerks
Subject: Circus Animals

Hi there, I heard that the council will be debating a ban on the use of exotic and wild animals in the circus on September 26, and I would just like to let the council know that myself and my family are in support of a ban. We think it is archaic to use animals in such a way, it teaches children of this city to see animals as objects for mere entertainment, and we hope it will not be allowed in Barrie anymore.

My family has moved between a couple different wards since, but we used to live right beside the mall where the circus was held and it was extremely disturbing hearing those elephants cry, and it was very hard to go to sleep at night knowing that just down the street those beautiful, intelligent creatures were likely being either degraded and worked to the bone sleeplessly or sleeping in uncomfortable and unsanitary conditions. I wondered how many other people on my street felt the same, too. I remember walking my dog down the street while the circus was happening in the back lot of the mall and my heart shattered for those animals because I could not understand why people would support the bull hooks, whips and electric prods involved with training exotic animals when they would never allow that to happen to their family pets. That is not how we train our dogs, because they are more than just fascinating objects to us. I believe most people just don't know how bad it is behind the scenes. Cruel training methods are the norm, whether certain circus companies will admit to it or not. They have been caught many times - a simple Google search can show many instances of their irresponsibility if one is willing to look.

I feel strongly that the majority of citizens of Barrie would agree with me if they knew these facts, too, and I already know many who do agree. Please take my account into consideration when the ban is being debated. I hope the council will make the moral and just decision and set a good example for other towns to see what progress looks like. Also, I hope they will consider the effect that this decision will have on generations of children to come and how the circus shapes their perspectives on how to treat other living beings. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Karly Gillies