

January 14, 2015

Alyne Fortgang
Friends of Woodland Park Zoo Elephants

Via e-mail: WPZElephants@yahoo.com

Re: City of Seattle's Authority to Condition Zoo Elephant Disposition

Dear Ms. Fortgang:

We have reviewed the 2001 Woodland Park Zoo Operations and Management Agreement between the city of Seattle and the Woodland Park Zoological Society (WPZS). It is our conclusion that the city is well within its legal authority to require that elephants transferred out of the Woodland Park Zoo be received by a Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries-accredited facility.

Although the agreement grants WPZS the authority to dispose of zoo animals, Section 15.3 of the agreement mandates that the disposal "be made in strict accordance with ... existing and any adopted acquisition and disposition policies approved by the City." A city ordinance, resolution, or mayoral executive order would constitute a "policy" based on the plain meaning of the term "policy." Therefore, as specifically anticipated by the agreement, the city may condition zoo elephant disposition by enacting an ordinance, resolution, or mayoral executive order to that effect.

I hope this letter will be of help to you and the elephants.

Very truly yours,



Delcianna Winders, Esq.
Deputy General Counsel
Captive Animal Law Enforcement
PETA Foundation
202-309-4697
DelciannaW@petaf.org

{00179133}

PEOPLE FOR
THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT
OF ANIMALS
FOUNDATION

Washington, D.C.
1536 16th St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-483-PETA

Los Angeles
2154 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
323-644-PETA

Norfolk
501 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510
757-622-PETA

Oakland
554 Grand Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
510-763-PETA

PETA FOUNDATION IS AN
OPERATING NAME OF FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT ANIMAL PROTECTION.

AFFILIATES:

- PETA U.S.
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)