

A Resolution concerning the mistreatment of circus animals in Burlington

WHEREAS it is manifestly wrong to make animals suffer in order to provide entertainment, and

WHEREAS such practices when permitted whether through ignorance or negligence debase our better natures, and

WHEREAS circus animals used in circuses are often mistreated by the use of bull hooks and whips when learning to perform tricks, are deprived of food and water to control bodily emissions during performances, are shackled with tire chains making normal movements impossible, are transported over long distances in uncomfortable trucks, and are deprived of normal socialization with other animals, and

WHEREAS there are numerous violations of the Animal Welfare ACT and charges filed against circus by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and furthermore

WHEREAS circus animals have killed at least 13 people and injured at least 97 people in the United States since 1990 in addition to numerous fatalities and injuries in other countries, and

WHEREAS there are numerous records of circus animals escaping their handlers in towns and cities throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS pathogens including tuberculosis, salmonella, anthrax, encephalomyelitis and e. coli carried by circus animals have infected and caused death in humans, therefore be it

RESOLVED that after January 1, 2004, public buildings and public properties belonging to the City of Burlington or controlled by the City of Burlington will not be made available to circuses, or other enterprises which transport or use circus animals in their programs, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Ordinance Committee be requested to draft an ordinance that would implement the humane intentions of the above Resolution.

Sponsor: Russell Ellis

Co-sponsors: Ellie Blais, Joan Shannon