

Warren Jr., Richard A. - Clerk's Office

From: Alyssa Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 11:48 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Comment for Ordinance No. 2023-130: Amending City Code Regarding Exotic and Wild Animals
Attachments: Richmond City Council Exotic Animal Ordinance_AMH Comments.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Richmond City Clerk,

Please find my comments regarding the potential change to Ordinance 2023-130 attached to this email. I will also be providing information in person but would appreciate it if the written testimony could be distributed to the Council Members. Thank you so much - I appreciate all of your help!

Alyssa

[Alyssa Miller-Hurley](#)
Senior Director, Government Affairs

[REDACTED]



Our new [member portal](#) is live – log in to access member-exclusive resources like our Advocacy Toolkit, State Issue Updates, and more. Questions about membership? Contact: [REDACTED]

This electronic message, including attachments, may include information that is confidential, proprietary and/or legally privileged. It is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) named as recipients in the message. Any unauthorized use, disclosure, copying or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient or have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender by replying to the e-mail and delete all copies of the original message.



June 8, 2023

RE: Ordinance No. 2023-130: Amending City Code Regarding Exotic and Wild Animals

Dear Mayor Stoney and Members of the Richmond City Council:

On behalf of the responsible pet care community, we respectfully request that you revise the current draft of Ordinance No. 2023-130, regarding the addition of a new section numbered 4-401, concerning wild and exotic animals.

As the advocacy voice of the responsible pet care community, the Pet Advocacy Network represents the interests and expertise of retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, pet owners, and others involved in the many aspects of pet care across the United States. Our association promotes animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, fosters environmental stewardship, and ensures healthy pets' availability through our work at the local, state, and federal levels. We routinely advocate for legislative and regulatory proposals to advance the public interest in protecting public health and the safety and health of companion animals. As such, we offer unmatched experience on legislative efforts to verify and certify the health and well-being of all pets from the time they are born until they are taken home to be part of their families.

We applaud and appreciate your efforts to keep Richmond safe while also protecting wild animals. We agree that certain animals – lions, tigers, or leopards, for example – require a level of care, management, and security that is well beyond that which the responsible pet-owning public and serious hobbyists can provide. This is an issue we know you take seriously and have approached thoughtfully.

Because of that, we are hopeful that we can collaborate to make two revisions that will protect public safety and responsible pet ownership.

The first revision we are suggesting pertains to venomous or poisonous reptiles or amphibians. Currently, the language reads as “any venomous or poisonous reptiles or amphibians.” This language is incredibly broad and could restrict the kinds of pets that some responsible pet owners may seek to own.

For instance, a serious hobbyist may be interested in keeping a technically venomous snake like the western hognose, whose venom is not medically equivalent and is equivalent to a bee sting, but, due to this broad language, would not be able to.

That is why we recommend adding the “medically significant” qualifier – making the sentence read “...medically significant venomous or poisonous reptile or amphibian.”

This would protect public health and safety and continue to allow responsible hobbyists and pet owners the freedom of informed choice.

Additionally, we would recommend that rather than listing out specific mammals that may be owned, the city use “those small mammals bred in captivity as or for the purpose of being companion animals.”

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████



A list like the one that is currently included creates a whitelist, which unfortunately is something we have seen create more problems than solve them. By wording the allowed mammals as “those small mammals bred in captivity for the purpose of being companion animals” or in similar terminology rather than listing specific species, we can achieve the goal of regulation while still allowing responsible pet owners to choose the pet that is the best suited for them and their experience level.

All of us in the responsible pet care community do not just care about animals; we provide care for them daily—and we are dedicated to ensuring that appropriate care of animals is the primary focus of any law or regulation.

We appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to work together to find ways to meaningfully ensure the health and safety of companion animals while continuing to foster the human-animal bond.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Miller-Hurley
Senior Director of Government Affairs

[Redacted signature block]

Petadvocacy.org



Warren Jr., Richard A. - Clerk's Office

From: VFA [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 9:26 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Help Request for City Council meeting for June 12
Attachments: Virginia House Bill 1442 - Practice of Falconry.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

My name is Gene Stevans and I am on the schedule to virtually address the City Council members this evening regarding ordinance 2023-130.

I just spoke with Rebecca on the phone and she mentioned that you could print and distribute the attached Virginia State House Bill 1442 to the Council Members before I speak.

Thank you in advance and please let me know if there's any questions,
Gene

Gene P. Stevans
Virginia Falconers' Association President



HB 1442 Hunting; practice of falconry, penalty.

Introduced by: [Harvey B. Morgan](#) | [all patrons](#) ... [notes](#) | [add to my profiles](#)

SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:

Hunting; practice of falconry; penalty. Updates state laws on the practice of falconry by (i) removing the limit on possession to three raptors, (ii) broadening the penalty that applies to the intentional removal of transmitting collars on dogs to include any transmitting device on raptors, and (iii) extending the rights of those hunting with dogs that permit the retrieval of such dogs from prohibited lands to those hunting with raptors.

FULL TEXT

- **11/15/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/12/11 11100381D pdf | impact statement**
 - **02/24/11 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB1442ER) pdf | impact statement**
 - **03/16/11 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0191) pdf**
-

AMENDMENTS

- **Senate amendments**
 - **Senate amendments engrossed**
-

HISTORY

- 11/15/10 House: Prefiled and ordered printed; offered 01/12/11 11100381D
 - **11/15/10 House: Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources**
 - **01/19/11 House: Reported from Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources (21-Y 0-N)**
 - 01/20/11 House: Read first time
 - 01/21/11 House: Read second time and engrossed
 - 01/24/11 House: Read third time and passed House BLOCK VOTE (97-Y 0-N)
 - **01/24/11 House: VOTE: BLOCK VOTE PASSAGE (97-Y 0-N)**
 - 01/25/11 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed
 - **01/25/11 Senate: Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice**
 - **02/04/11 Senate: Assigned Courts sub: Criminal**
 - **02/14/11 Senate: Reported from Courts of Justice with amendments (15-Y 0-N)**
 - **02/15/11 Senate: Constitutional reading dispensed (40-Y 0-N)**
 - 02/16/11 Senate: Read third time
 - 02/16/11 Senate: Reading of amendments waived
 - 02/16/11 Senate: Committee amendments agreed to
 - 02/16/11 Senate: Engrossed by Senate as amended
 - **02/16/11 Senate: Passed Senate with amendments (40-Y 0-N)**
 - 02/17/11 House: Placed on Calendar
 - 02/18/11 House: Senate amendments agreed to by House (92-Y 0-N)
 - **02/18/11 House: VOTE: ADOPTION (92-Y 0-N)**
 - 02/24/11 House: Enrolled
 - 02/24/11 House: Bill text as passed House and Senate (HB1442ER)
 - 02/24/11 House: Signed by Speaker
 - 02/24/11 Senate: Signed by President
 - 03/16/11 Governor: Approved by Governor-Chapter 191 (effective 7/1/11)
 - 03/16/11 Governor: Acts of Assembly Chapter text (CHAP0191)
-

Warren Jr., Richard A. - Clerk's Office

From: Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2023 9:06 AM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Request for continuance of Ord. No. 2023-172 at the 12 June City Council meeting
Attachments: OHNA_Ampitheatre_Request for Deferral_Ord. No. 2023-172_12 June 2023.pdf

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Reid,

I write to you on behalf of the Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association (OHNA) and ask that you share this letter with the Organizational Development Standing Committee prior to their 5 June 2022 meeting. This letter asks that Council to defer consideration of this item to allow for broader public discussion on this most important issue.

Sincerely,
Bryan Clark Green
President
Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association



Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

12 June 2023

Ms. Candice D. Reid
City Clerk
900 E. Broad St., Suite 200
Richmond, VA
23219 USA
CityClerksOffice@rva.gov

Re: Request for continuance of Ord. No. 2023-172

Dear Ms. Reid,

I write to you on behalf of the Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association (OHNA) and ask that you share this letter with the Organizational Development Standing Committee prior to their 5 June 2022 meeting.

I am writing to ask that the Committee defer consideration of Ord. No. 2023-172, "To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Richmond Riverfront Performing Arts Venue Performance Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond, Richmond Amphitheater, LLC, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of developing and operating an amphitheater at 470 Tredegar Street."

OHNA requests this delay to allow for more public consultation about the terms of this agreement. Although the proponents of the project have initiated conversations with the impacted neighborhoods, including Oregon Hill, to discuss parking, hours of operation, and noise levels, Committee consideration of this ordinance forecloses on the possibility of informed discussion at our monthly Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association meeting.

We appreciate the project proponent's willingness to discuss these issues with us. In the spirit of those conversations, we believe that the funding mechanism that the City is considering merits broader engagement with the citizens of Richmond. Broad public consultation is the bedrock of good policy, and the haste with which this ordinance is being moved through Council does nothing to honor this necessary engagement.

Construction of an amphitheater at Tredegar will necessarily have a profound effect on our residential neighborhood and the families that live here. We ask that Council defer consideration of this item to allow for broader public discussion on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

Bryan Clark Green, President
Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

cc:

Mr. Andreas Addison, 1st Ward Council member

Request for continuance of Ord. No. 2023-172

OHNA

12 June 2023

Ms. Katherine Jordan, 2nd Ward Council member

Ms. Ann-Frances Lambert, 3rd Ward Council member

Ms. Kristen M. Nye, Council Vice President, 4th Ward Council member

Ms. Stephanie A. Lynch, 5th Ward Council member

Honorable Ellen F. Robertson, 6th Ward Council member

Ms. Cynthia I. Newbille, 7th Ward Council member

Ms. Reva M. Trammell, 8th Ward Council member

Ms. Michael J. Jones, Council President, 9th Ward Council member