

Submitted by: Assembly Members SELKREGG,
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Prepared by: Assembly Member Selkregg
For reading: May 22, 2007

CLERK'S OFFICE
AMENDED AND APPROVED

Date: 5-22-07

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

No. AR 2007-139

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY CONCERNING
MAGGIE, THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT AT THE ALASKA ZOO.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo is an esteemed cultural asset of the Anchorage community that delights and educates thousands of Anchorage residents, school children, and visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo meets its mission to "provide homes for arctic and sub-arctic wildlife in a natural setting for the enjoyment and educational enrichment of Alaskan residents and visitors to our state"; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Zoo acquired Maggie, an African elephant, in order to provide company for Anabelle, an Asian elephant, that died a few years after Maggie arrived; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's long winters and cold climate have posed unique challenges to the Alaska Zoo in their efforts to house Maggie in a safe environment appropriate to her species, origins, and physical needs, requiring heroic measures to ensure her safety, health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, despite best efforts of the Alaska Zoo and the Anchorage community, Maggie is experiencing serious medical problems which are exacerbated by the limitations of her living quarters in the northern climate; and

WHEREAS, numerous African elephant experts have indicated that Maggie's health, life expectancy, and quality of life will improve if she is moved to an accredited zoo or sanctuary in a warm climate holding a social group of African elephants with year-round, free access to a spacious outdoors area; and

WHEREAS, four institutions meeting these requirements (North Carolina Zoological Park; Oakland Zoo, PAWS-Ark2000; The Elephant Sanctuary) offered to give Maggie a home in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, representing more than 200 zoos and aquariums, has advised the Alaska Zoo that Maggie should be relocated as soon as she is fit; and

WHEREAS, many Anchorage citizens who value the Zoo and Maggie are extremely concerned that Maggie may die if she remains in her confined Alaskan quarters; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

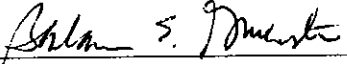
Section 1. The Alaska Zoo is encouraged to ~~relocate~~ **decide quickly what is best for** Maggie, the African Elephant, to **consider moving her to** suitable living quarters in a warmer, more hospitable climate as quickly as possible in order to allow her to live in an environment more suitable to her species, age, and medical condition; and,

Section 2. That this resolution shall become effective upon passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly this 22nd day of May, 2007.


Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk