



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ERIC ADAMS
President

March 31, 2015

Mr. Cedric Walker
230 Peachtree Street
20th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Elephants in UniverSoul Circus Shows

Dear Mr. Cedric Walker:

Thank you again for bringing Universal Circus' leadership to meet with me on Thursday, March 5, 2015 to discuss your plans to come to Brooklyn. I found the meeting engaging and helpful and I look forward to continuing our dialogue.

Today, however, on behalf of the 2.6 million Brooklynites who call this borough home, I write to urge you to refrain from bringing elephants into UniverSoul Circus performances in Brooklyn and throughout New York City.

The announcement that Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus will be phasing out their elephant acts was welcomed by my office. In fact, I met with leaders from Feld Entertainment a week prior to their announcement to urge ending the use of elephants in their shows as well as employing training methods based on fear. In particular, I expressed concern that tools such as bull hooks are barbaric in nature and have no place in any circus.

These concerns do not apply only to Ringling's circus acts, but to all acts, including UniverSoul. My office has found that a growing number of constituents feel the same way.

As the founder of one of our largest modern day circuses, I am sure you know that all businesses including those with long-standing traditions must evolve in order to continue growing and serving their consumer base. New York City is a compassionate city and one that is becoming ever more wary of wild animal performances, desiring to know these animals are instead safe to act out their natural behaviors away from spotlights and loud noises.

As always, I am open to discuss this issue further with you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ingrid Lewis-Martin, my senior advisor at Iplewis-martin@brooklynbp.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric L. Adams".

Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President

ELA/rl