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Council President Linda Morad.

Dear Councilor Morad,

I am writing to you in hope that you will consider further dialogue concerning Emily and Ruth the magnificent elephants at our zoo. I and many other residents of New Bedford were profoundly discouraged when the city council decided on "No further Action" in April of 14. Please be advised I do not know Mr. Keith Lovett or Ms. Joyce Rowley, both of whom spoke on the floor of the council. I have every confidence Mr. Lovetts team of guardians are a caring and professional crew with the best intentions for those in their charge. The issue is is the conditions and environment in which they are forced to live. The difference of opinion is duly noted and a healthy debate is always a welcome invite to our community. However, the question remains as councilor Carney stated, the fate of the elephants warrants "further investigation". Some other council members also spoke, and if my memory serves, councilor Reibiro's knowledge of pachyderms was in dispute, but as you know, the committees and sub committees are chaired by various members of the council and I am reasonably sure they are not experts in all those subjects. FY2016 budget est. the city has funded the zoo @ North of \$160,000. The New Bedford Zoo has come a long way and is a better place to educate its visitors however, current conditions for Emily and Ruth are a subject of significant concern.

It is my belief that you above all the councilors that have served this city, would allow the opportunity for all the voices to be heard. I have no degree in biology, or zoology, I am simply requesting that you elevate the dialogue to a higher level.

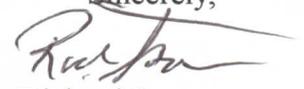
The council was advised of a petition that had signatures from every part of this city, and surrounding communities, they deserve your attention, and their concerns to be heard.

We must endeavor to seek out additional options and possible solutions for these two resplendent animals who have served this community for many years. Do they not deserve the future possibility of a better "retirement"? Many traveling circuses have now retired their elephants, and Toronto voted recently to move their elephants to sanctuary and did so successfully.

I am confident you will lend your voice and give it consideration. The recent documentary aired on HBO titled "Apology Elephant" has opened another window into the fundamental way humans interact and view these great creatures, narrated by Lily Tomlin, who states

"The First thing to know is that they need our help". You can view it on cable ,you tube, facebook. When we hear of the passing of these great creatures I hope we can say to our selves, we did all we could, we investigated all possibilities to ensure a better life for them. We owe them at least that, The time to act is here and now, thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Richard Spoor