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**EDWARD A. BOKS**  
General Manager

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## **Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

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**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** October 9, 2007

**PREPARED BY:** Linda Barth

**REPORT DATE:** August 8, 2007

**TITLE:** Assistant General  
Manager

**SUBJECT:** Policy to Guide the Handling of Permit Applications which Include Elephant Walks and Similar Events for the Public

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### **BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board establish a policy statement regarding Elephant Walks or similar parades of animals by a circus or exhibition, to guide the permit processing responsibilities of Department staff.

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### **SUMMARY:**

Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus properly applied for a circus permit for their recent engagement at Staples Center from July 18 through July 22, 2007, and the permission moved expeditiously through the usual process of verifying information, checking the staff and show plans, and scheduling Animal Services Officers for inspections. As in past years, the circus permit paperwork also notified the Department of a traditional Elephant Walk on public streets to bring the animals from the railroad tracks to the site of the Circus engagement. For the 2007 Elephant Walk, which brought elephants to Staples on July 17, 2007, and back to the railroad cars on Sunday night, July 22, 2007, Department staff engaged with other responsible City agencies and Departments, particularly the Los Angeles Police Department, to analyze the plans for the Walk, including the time and route, in the event that fresh review would reveal any potential problems or suggest modifications to improve safety. Ultimately, City staff determined planning and safeguards were satisfactory.

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In the case of the 2007 Elephant Walks, there were no incidents, however historically and in other locations there have been Elephant Walks which have resulted in an elephant rampage. Therefore, the Department seeks a Policy Statement to guide staff for future event approval review and planning. Such a statement could indicate conceptually whether the activity is endorsed or discouraged, and establish parameters such as day, time of day, number of animals, minimum staff requirements, and so forth. Having a Policy Guideline will ensure consistency in handling permits and events in the future, so that applicants cannot suggest favoritism.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Events such as would be covered by this Policy Statement are rare and would number only one or a few each year. No significant revenue or expense.

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**Approved:**

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**Edward A. Boks, General Manager**

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____