

# City Council Presentation

March 27, 2007

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Director

El Paso Zoo



# Mission of the El Paso Zoo

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- Create opportunities of discovery
- Reestablish the connection with nature
- Provide experiences that inspire
- Empower better citizens of the world

Animal care and well-being our highest priority



The Council is waiting to hear from the new zoo director.

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- Question One: Is the El Paso Zoo fit to have the two Asian elephants currently in its collection?

# The process:

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- I remained objective and impartial
- Invested of time and energy
- Complete review of the elephant program
- Contacted other zoos



# Findings:

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- Incident was isolated
- Dealt with quickly and decisively
- Welfare protocols strong and unambiguous

# Findings:

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- Facilities
- Animal husbandry methods
- Active management program/improvements
- More improvements on the way



## Answer to question one:

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- Is the El Paso Zoo fit to have the two Asian elephants currently in its collection?

Yes it is, without a doubt.



## Question two:

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Should the El Paso Zoo continue to be involved with elephants in the future?



# Current situation needs attention:

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- Elephants in the wild
- More conservation/education needed
- North American population management
  
- AZA asks for a level of commitment



# Proposed future standard:

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- No fewer than three females
- Our facility designed for three females



# Future needs:

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- No emergency need to move into Washington Park
- There is a need for a zoo wide master plan



# Why keep elephants in El Paso?

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- Enriches our community
- Inspires our children
- Connects us to wild elephant populations



# Elephants in El Paso

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- Can we keep elephants in El Paso?

Yes, we can.

- Should we keep elephants in El Paso?

Yes, we should.