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January 6, 2015

**VIA EMAIL: WPZELEPHANTS@YAHOO.COM**

Ms. Alyne Fortgang  
Friends of Woodland Park Zoo Elephants  
10011 Vinton Ct. NW  
Seattle, WA 98177

**Re: City/Zoo Agreement**

Dear Ms. Fortgang:

You asked us to review the December 2001 Woodland Park Zoo Operations and Management Agreement. In particular, you asked what authority the City has under that Agreement to determine the disposition of elephants at Woodland Park Zoo.

Section 15.3 of the Agreement says that the Woodland Park Zoological Society (WPZS) shall have authority to dispose of Zoo Animals, but any disposition is limited by the terms of subsections (a-c). Subsection (c) says that any disposition must be in accordance with "existing and any adopted . . . disposition policies approved by the City." This language appears to allow the City to adopt policies relating to Zoo Animal disposition that will bind WPZS. For example, the City could adopt a policy to the effect that elephants at the Zoo may be sold or transferred only to a facility accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please let me know if you have questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karl F. Oles".

Karl F. Oles

KFO/lb