

From: [Angelo Bertolas](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Subject: My comments for 2021.EC26.10 on December 1, 2021 Economic and Community Development Committee
Date: November 28, 2021 10:02:55 AM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the December 1, 2021 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on item 2021.EC26.10, Request to Review Chapter 349, Animals Exception for Reptilia Zoo

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



info@yqna.ca chair@yqna.ca

November 26, 2021

By email to [Economic and Community Development Committee ecdc@toronto.ca](mailto:ecdc@toronto.ca)

And To:

Jordann Thirgood (she/her) Jordann.Thirgood@toronto.ca Esther.Attard@toronto.ca

Policy Development Officer

Municipal Licensing and Standards

[City of Toronto](#)

416-392-7964

For Distribution to the Economic and Community Development Committee

December 1, 2021 Meeting Item EC26.10: Request to review Chapter 349, Animals exception for Reptilia Zoo

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

Economic and Community Development Committee December 1, 2021, meeting
EC26.10: Request to review Chapter 349, Animals exception for Reptilia Zoo

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York Quay Neighbourhood Association (YQNA) represents residents along the waterfront from Yonge Street to Spadina Avenue. The proposed Reptilia operation would be located

squarely within our area and directly affect our members and residents.

We have had in depth discussions with representatives of both Reptilia as well as Harbourfront Centre and have had fulsome discussions regarding our potential concerns and how these can be addressed. We have visited the Reptilia operation located in Vaughan to get a better understanding of the operation, the treatment of the animals and security of the premises.

We are writing on behalf of the York Quay Neighbourhood Association (YQNA) to express strong support for the request for a site-specific exception to Chapter 349, Animals to permit the operations of Reptilia Zoo at 245 Queens Quay West (Harbourfront Centre).

Reptilia has demonstrated that they are keenly focused on the care and safety of their animals and have demonstrated a strong commitment to both education and to the communities in which they operate.

Having read the Staff Report it seems the most significant concerns resulting in the recommendation to DENY the application are:

1. The potential that the amendment could set a precedent and result in a proliferation of dangerous animal venues across the city. Surely there should be a way to isolate this amendment given the “Tourist/Entertainment District” nature of the waterfront and the proximity of the Reptilia operation to the Ripley Aquarium which already received a Chapter 349, Animals exception.
2. There were also significant concerns regarding antivenom availability given the number of poisonous animals that will be located at the site. The report states that local hospitals do not maintain a supply of antivenom although Reptilia has a supply on hand and provides training to all staff. The Toronto Zoo also has specific protocols in place to assist with the treatment of snake bites and provide required antivenom to hospitals on an ‘as needed’ basis. <https://www.torontozoo.com/press/2019/!newsite.asp?pg=20190625>

Finally, the Hospital for Sick Children is one of the 7 Southern Ontario hospitals that maintains anti-venom supplies. <https://www.torontozoo.com/press/2019/!newsite.asp?pg=20190625>

Based on our visit to the Vaughan Reptilia operation, the animals are very securely contained and isolated from the public. We are advised that Reptilia has not had any incidents of attacks by poisonous animals, and they provide excellent training for all employees regarding animal bites and antivenom use. We wonder if Reptilia would be willing to provide local hospitals with a supply of antivenom should an incident result outside of normal business hours.

Chapter 349, Animals to permit the proposed operations of Reptilia Zoo at Harbourfront Centre. Reptilia is a family friendly operation and would fit well with the existing Harbourfront Centre operations.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Bertolas". The letter "A" is large and stylized, followed by "Bertolas" in a cursive script.

Angelo Bertolas
Chair of YQNA

cc. Councillor Joe Cressy, Tom Davidson, Martin Kenneally, Kim Wright