

From: [Kim Wright](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Cc: [Travis Small](#)
Subject: Reptilia comments for 2021.EC26.10 on December 1, 2021 Economic and Community Development Committee
Date: November 30, 2021 7:43:56 PM
Attachments: [Reptilia - HarbourFront Centre Proposal.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:

On behalf of my client Reptilia, please add the following written presentation to the agenda and for distribution to the Committee 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: (attached)

REPTILIA INC.



EDUCATION, ANIMAL REPRESENTATION, CONSERVATION,
AND MAGICAL GUEST EXPERIENCES.

WHO ARE WE?



Reptilia is a member of the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums. It has been providing a safe, secure, and caring learning environment since 1996 with locations in Vaughan and Whitby, and an additional location slated to open this year in London.

As part of its mandate, Reptilia has been offering educational programs for Ontario schools since 1997.

It functions as a humane agency for animal welfare, conservation, science, as well as education. Reptilia does not sell animals.



Town of Whitby
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
 575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8
www.whitby.ca

November 15, 2021

Re: Letter of Support for Reptilia

To whom it may concern;

As Senior Manager of the Town of Whitby Economic Development Department, I am pleased to offer a letter of support for Reptilia. Since opening in 2018, Reptilia has made a very positive impact on our community. Reptilia is a great corporate citizen and would be a welcome addition to any community.

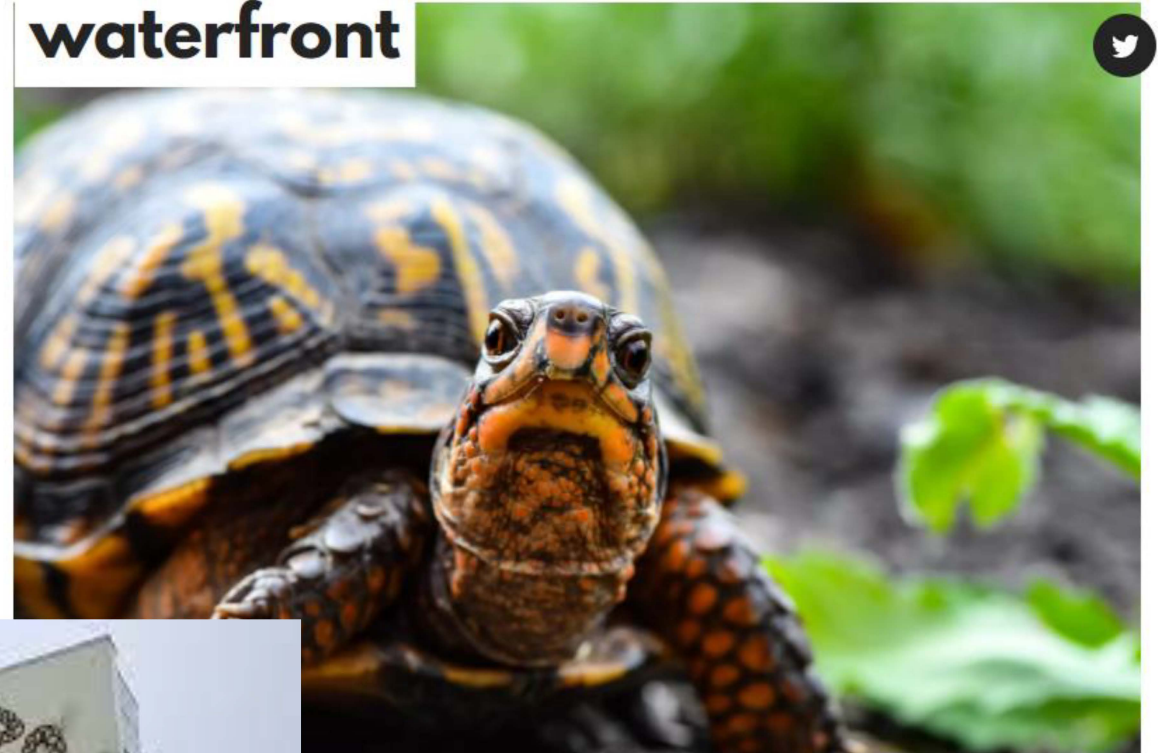
If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Paul Pirri

Paul Pirri,
 Senior Manager, Economic Development
 Strategic Initiatives Office of the CAO
 T 905.430.4312
 C 905.424.9346
ppirri@whitby.ca



Toronto could soon get a massive reptile zoo on the waterfront



Reptilia, the reptile zoo with locations in Vaughan and Whitby, has revealed ambitious new plans to expand to downtown Toronto, with sights set specifically on a vacant building on the waterfront.



reptilazoo

4,204 Followers

[View profile](#)

OUR COMMITMENT AND ANIMAL STEWARDSHIP PROMISE

Our animals receive the highest standards of care in accordance with Reptilia's Facility Operation Manuals which incorporate those established by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA – CAZA.CA) of which Reptilia is a member

Our animals will not be purposefully removed from the wild for use at Reptilia. Our animals originate from rescue situations or are already captive animals to which we have been asked to offer a lifelong home

Our animals have proper care for life. When they arrive at Reptilia they stay or are placed into our retirement program where they continue to receive the same standard of care, they've been used to with Reptilia for their entire stay on earth

Our animals are given diets, temperature gradients, humidity gradients, behavioral opportunities and all other requirements based on the individual needs of their species. Our zookeepers stay on the forefront of modern research in the care of the animal species they are responsible for, so be able to continuously improve

Our animals will receive not just the basics, but an enriched life, with a spacious and varied living space and unexpected opportunities to experience novel objects and situations

Reptilia maintains a zero-tolerance policy for abuse (all cases would be grounds for instant dismissal and prosecution to the extent provided by law)

Our focus on animal health is primarily the prevention of illness. When an illness occurs, we ensure rapid medical care to aid recovery and ease any suffering

SAFE & COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

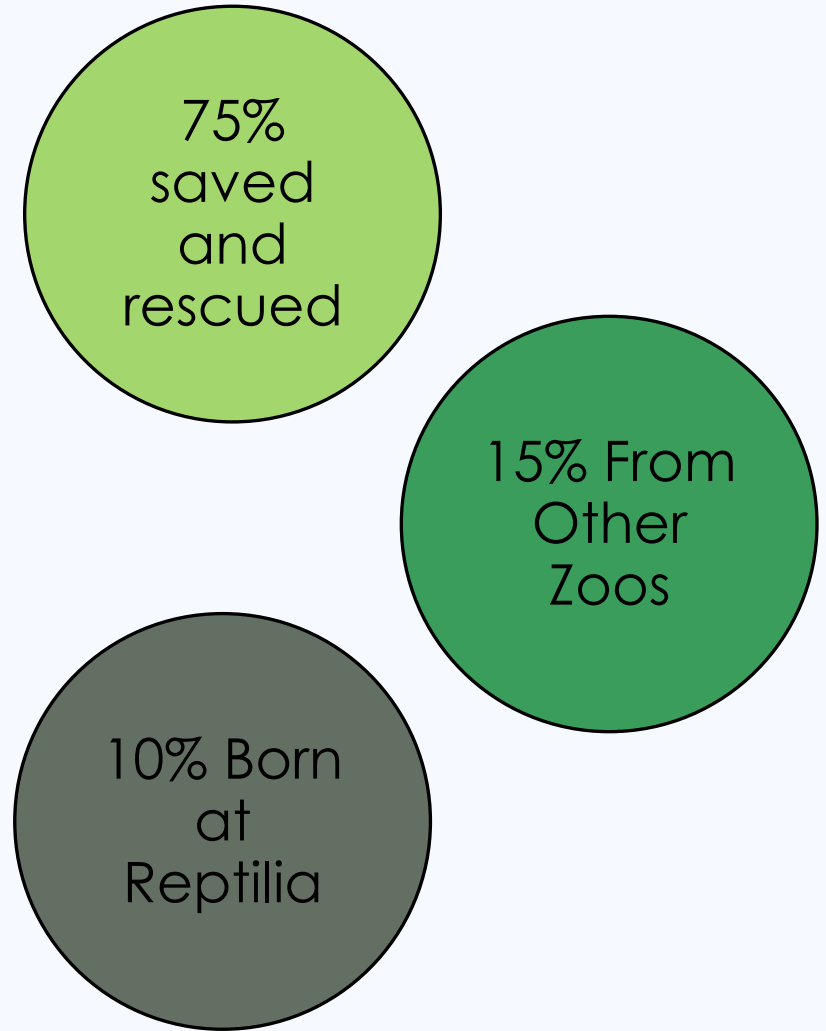
“Staff reviewed all existing relevant documentation related to Reptilia's operations, including health and safety protocols. Staff found that the training requirements, emergency procedures and facility security standards are reasonable and sufficient to keep facility staff and the public safe.” - City of Toronto Staff report – Page 5

**REPTILIA IS COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION WITH
ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, CAZA,
OTHER ZOOS, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND LOCAL HOSPITALS**

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS AT ALL REPTILIA FACILITIES BENEFITS EVERYONE

OUR REPTILE FAMILY

Reptilia is committed to helping government organizations and private owners find suitable lifelong homes for these animals, which cannot be released to the wild.





All of our facilities are open year-round, 364 days of the year (everyday but Christmas)

Reptilia has full time veterinary staff and trained staff who monitor health & well-being of animals 24/7/365

Reptilia at Harbourfront, if approved, would take the same high-quality approach to safety, security, education, and community.

ANIMAL SAFETY

At Reptilia we are dedicated to ensure the safety and well-being of our animals, guests, and the cast.

Since opening, Reptilia has never had an animal escape. We ensure to continue this by always improving our policy's and training. All exhibits are checked daily by staff to ensure the animal can't escape.

We ensure this with safety protocols we have in place. The facilities are monitored 24/7/365 We practice animal escape drill's monthly.

All corridors and back rooms have locking doors to only let the properly trained Cast into them based on their level of training and security clearance.

ONGOING TRAINING

Each Cast Member receives ongoing training and resources required to provide the best care for the species for which they have responsibility.

Our Epaulet training program controls the consistency of our standards through regular monitoring and review of the skills of our Cast Members.

ONLY those Cast Members meeting qualifications and training levels are allowed access to our animals. Various species have specialized requirements and access controls.



EDUCATION

&

CAMPS





KIDS SUMMER CAMP

ABOUT

Reptilia's goals for your camper are simple:
to develop an appreciation for reptiles, learn about the world around them, and have fun.

ACTIVITIES

- Private reptile shows
- Learning about reptiles
- Learning how to handle the reptiles
- Learn to feed various small lizards, turtles, and tortoises
- Learn to care for reptiles
- Arts and crafts
- Reptile-related games



Education and camps

Reptilia has custom-written curriculums guided by the applicable education department overseeing the elementary science curriculum and **approved by the school boards for which we teach.**

Currently, working with the Ontario Government on province-wide curriculum

We use a multidisciplinary approach incorporating the concepts and guidelines set forth in the Science and Technology curriculum.



Post Secondary School Programs

Programs for post-secondary level classes include workshops for students in teacher's college to veterinary medicine and animal care students.

SCOUTS & GUIDES

Reptilia offers a variety of programs created specifically for guides. All programs emphasize hands on experience with the animals. Our lessons meet requirements for the Naturalist and Conservation emblem.



Naturalist-Camouflage and Predation

This lesson focuses on the many ways that reptiles and amphibians camouflage themselves. We explain why some animals camouflage while others seem to make themselves more visible.

Naturalist-Ecology

Our educator will teach your group about ecology by discussing the ecology of reptiles and amphibians. We will address the issues of interactions and interdependence between animals and their environment.

Naturalist-Seasons

Your group will learn about reptiles and amphibians and the fascinating methods they use to cope with changes in weather.



Conservation-Habitat

We will discuss the necessities of life (space, air, water, food, and shelter). We will address the human activities that affect each of these necessities and explore ways of reducing our impact on other species.

Conservation-The Road to Extinction

We will teach your group about some of the ways that we have negatively affected wild animals. Specifically, guides will learn about introduction of exotic species, illegal trade in live animals and animal parts, and destruction due to prejudice. Scouts will learn about responsible pet care and about the requirements of reptiles and amphibians in captivity.



World Conservation Badge

We will teach your troop about some of the ways that humans have affected wild animals. Specifically, the topics of introduction of exotics, illegal trade, extermination due

REPTILIA AT HARBOURFRONT (IF APPROVED)

- Safe, secure spaces for animals, visitors, and staff
- Will continue to work closely with the City of Toronto
- Family friendly, educational programming.
- Affordable tickets and passes – for individuals and families.
- Additional local and international tourism.
- Solid reputation as a corporate citizen.
- No outdoor amplified music.
- Encouraged access by transit, cycling, pedestrian.
- School buses to park in nearby lots after drop off.
- Use of space is in existing building, with an interior fit out for the full facility.
- Reptilia commits to active engagement with all orders of government, CAZA, Toronto emergency services, and local hospitals.
- Reptilia commits to an active, ongoing relationship with the YQNA and the Waterfront BIA





QUESTIONS?

