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November 17, 2015

Dear Chair and Members of the Licensing and Standards Committee,

I understand that the issue of Licensing of wildlife control operators in the City of Toronto will be deliberated on November 26, 2015.

For over 31 years, as the owner of AAA Gates Wildlife Control, I have witnessed numerous wildlife removal companies committing fraudulent service, endangering consumer health & safety and failing to protect animal welfare.

This deplorable behaviour has compelled me to invest considerable time and resources to bring about positive change through the licensing of all wildlife control operators.

I would like to ask for your support to make the licensing of wildlife control operators in the City of Toronto a must. As to this I will offer my services to develop and to introduce the needed framework.

I would like to emphasize that the City's licensing model to standardize wildlife removal activities need not require large budgetary consideration. Additionally, only minimal staff resources will be needed to bring the existing infrastructure online.

In this context, licensing at this time makes perfect sense since the City of Toronto has already acknowledged the need for addressing wildlife concerns by recently introducing the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Urban Wildlife. With the group already working towards developing wildlife management practices, increasing public awareness about conflict prevention and also amending bylaws, why not go one small step further.

In conclusion, let's get the City of Toronto involved in guiding its residents to hire only ethical wildlife removal companies. In other words, companies that hold customer service, health & safety and the humane treatment of wildlife in high regard.

Brad Gates, B.Sc. President