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December 22, 2008

Mr. William White, Chair
City of San Antonio
Animal Care Services Advisory Board
7551 Callaghan Road
Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78229

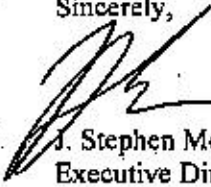
Dear Mr. White:

As a courtesy, I am replying to your letter dated November 19th, 2008, which was not mailed to us until December 6th, 2008.

Your comments regarding Lucky are all based on both biased and bad information.

1. Her physical and mental health has not and will not "continue to deteriorate."
2. We are well aware that elephants are social; we will provide appropriate companionship.
Elephants are not migratory (as determined by real science); they are directed by needs for food, water, and reproductive potential.
Your lifespan information is wrong and was probably based on an accumulation of old, poorly developed data.
3. Your comments directed toward "Phase III" are totally inaccurate. There are definite plans for Lucky's future.

Sincerely,



J. Stephen McCusker
Executive Director

JSM:jpb

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Walter N. Cortigan
Rugby Ferguson
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Executive Director Emeritus

Laura R. DiSabato

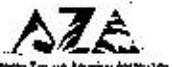
Honorary Directors

L. Larry Mays
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Cc: Laura C. McKieran, District 1
Shannon R. Espy, DVM, District 2
Carole Abitz, District 4
Kathleen McGowan, District 6
Randolph E. Murdock, District 7
Ron Aaron, Vice Chair, District 8
John Bellett, District 9
Sallie Scott, Secretary, District 10
David Garza (City Official), Mayoral

November 19, 2008

Mr. Stephen McCusker
Executive Director
San Antonio Zoo
3903 North St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, Texas 78212-7183

Dear Mr. McCusker:

Recent events have cast light on the plight of Lucky, the elephant. As her physical and mental health continues to deteriorate we, the City of San Antonio Animal Care Services Advisory Board, are concerned about her future.

There are many reasons why elephants do not thrive in zoological gardens but please consider this:

1. Elephants are social as well as migratory animals and survive much better in the wild. In zoos, they averaged 38 years of life versus 68-70 in natural settings.
2. There are no plans for Lucky's future. Phase III of the zoo expansion calls for a 2 African elephant display. Asian and African elephants are two different species and must be kept apart.
3. There is a no cost alternative that will ensure a happy life for Lucky. The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee has pledged that they will relocate Lucky to their refuge and absorb all costs.

After many years of faithful service to San Antonio, it is time to retire Lucky and allow her to enjoy life with her own kind. Therefore we, the ACSAB respectfully request that the zoo and its advisory board do as other progressive cities have done and surrender Lucky to the elephant preserve in Tennessee.

It is the humane thing to do.

The honor of a reply is requested within 20 days of receipt of this letter.

Respectfully,

Laura C. McKieran, District 1
Shannon R. Espy, D.V.M., District 2
William White, Chair, District 3 ←
Carole Abitz, District 4
Kathleen McGowan, District 6
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Ron Aaron, Vice Chair, District 8
John Bellett, District 9
Sallie Scott, Secretary, District 10
David Garza (City official), Mayoral

cc: Mr. Gilbert F. Vazquez, Head of Board, San Antonio Zoological Society

*William White, Chair, City of San Antonio Animal Care Services Advisory Board
7551 Callaghan Road, Suite 200, San Antonio, Texas 78229*

CERTIFIED MAIL

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