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January 10, 2020

Dean Cox, Chairman
Utah County Commission
197 E. Tabernacle Street
St. George, UT 84770

Sent via email: dean.cox@washco.utah.gov; ginger.hall@washco.utah.gov

Dear Chairman Cox:

On behalf of Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC), a non-profit animal advocacy organization with more than 50,000 members and supporters, I write to urge you to disallow the lease or use of any Washington County facility for circus acts which feature wild animals. Such exhibitions are unavoidably abusive to the unwilling animal participants, and also pose an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of the general public.

For many years, Jordan World Circus has made regular visits to the Washington County Legacy Park, and this circus act intends to return to this facility later this month. For many years, Jordan World Circus had its own license to exhibit animals through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). However, after years of violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), Jordan World's license was canceled. It now leases animals from other disreputable companies for its cruel circus.

If recent history is any indication, Jordan World Circus intends to bring two elephants to Utah – Carol and Patty – who are leased from the Carden family. The Carden family has itself been cited numerous times for violating the AWA, including failing to provide adequate space for the animals, and not providing veterinary care to animals who required it.

Even when circuses manage to abide by the bare minimum AWA regulations, this does not make these events cruelty-free. Elephants, tigers, and other animals used for circuses are transported in tiny cages from town to town, where they are forced to perform unnatural and frightening tricks. These animals are compelled to perform these tricks under threat of punishment. I have personally witnessed handlers with Jordan World Circus handlers wielding “bullhooks” around the elephants. A bullhook is a sharp, painful weapon that resembles a fireplace poker, that elephants are struck with in order to keep them “in line.” Shockingly, this abuse is permissible under the federal AWA. I acquired a bullhook from a circus a number of years ago. If you would like hold one of these weapons in your hands

yourself, I can make arrangements to bring you the one in my possession. After holding and experiencing this weapon first hand, I believe you will agree that this weapon should not be wielded against animals in Washington County facilities.

There is also a very real risk to public health and safety by allowing these wild animals to return. In 2014, Jordan World lost control of two elephants who began fighting with one another at Utah Valley University. The animals had to be subdued using bullhooks, metal bars, and stun guns. You can watch the disturbing footage of this incident [here](#). Additionally, one of the elephants traveling with Jordan World Circus has tested positive for tuberculosis, a highly transmissible and dangerous infectious disease.

A number of venues throughout Utah have enacted policies that prohibit their use for wild animal exhibitions, including Provo Towne Centre, Layton Hills Mall, and Fashion Place. In November, [Central Michigan University also ended its relationship with Jordan World Circus](#), and made clear that cruel wild animal exhibitions will no longer be tolerated on its campus. It is within your authority and power to make a similar compassionate decision. UARC urges Washington County to adopt a policy prohibiting wild animal acts in all of its facilities.

I am available to speak or meet with you, and can be reached at 385-401-4301 or jeremy@uarc.io. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEREMY BECKHAM". The signature is stylized, with the first name "JEREMY" written in a slightly smaller font than the last name "BECKHAM". The letters are bold and connected, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the last name.

Jeremy Beckham, MPA, MPH, CPH
Executive Director
Utah Animal Rights Coalition