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August 22, 2022

Salt Lake City Council
PO Box 145476
451 S. State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-5476

Sent Via E-Mail: Council.comments@slcgov.com

Dear Salt Lake City Council:

I write on behalf of Utah Animal Rights Coalition (UARC) and our tens of thousands of members and supporters in Utah with troubling information regarding a horse-drawn carriage company that is currently operating on the streets of Salt Lake City in clear violation of a city ordinance which prohibits animal drawn carriages.¹ Even more troubling, it appears that the operator of this company is aware of the existence of this ordinance, and flouting the law intentionally. In light of this company's knowing and willful violations of city law, UARC is asking the city to take immediate enforcement action against this company and its operator to stop further violations of law, **including plans for this Saturday, August 27, 2022.** Additionally, UARC urges the city to consider options for strengthening the city ordinance to deter other would-be violators.

Salt Lake City's horse-drawn carriage ban was passed on a 7-0 vote in 2014 in the wake of a high-profile death of a horse named Jerry. Jerry died on State Street while pulling a carriage in 98° heat in August 2013. His body was destroyed and no veterinary records were released by the carriage company, which initially tried to mislead the public and lie about Jerry's fate, even going so far as to release a fraudulent photograph of a different horse in a futile attempt to convince the public Jerry was alive.²

This death and scandal led to public outrage, extensive media attention, and multiple protests by our organization in downtown Salt Lake City. Notably, it also prompted a thorough study by the Salt Lake City Council of the issue. The City Council queried public and police records, which found that there had been several

¹ Salt Lake City Code. Chapter 5.37, "Animal Drawn Carriages." Available at https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/saltlakecityut/latest/saltlakecity_ut/0-0-0-46878.

² Dalrymple, Jim. "Carriage horse owner sent photo of wrong horse, says Jerry is recovering." *The Salt Lake Tribune*. August 25, 2013. Available at <https://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=56778212&itype=CMSID>.

previously unreported recent incidents of horses spooking in busy city traffic, causing accidents and serious injury to people, including:

- In April 2013, a horse spooked after children were throwing wads of paper at him. The horse bucked, tipped the carriage over into a UTA bus, and obstructed traffic for an hour.
- In July 2013, a 2-year-old child was thrown from a carriage onto the street in the Avenues, where the carriage wheel ran over her leg. She was transported to and treated at Primary Children's Medical Center.
- In September 2011, a horse named Cletus lost his footing on the asphalt on South Temple, slipped, and collapsed in front of Temple Square. He died later that evening.
- In August 2009, a horse pulling a crammed carriage of seven people became spooked and bolted. The panicked driver exited as the horse continued to sprint down busy city streets, completely out of control. A police officer riding a bicycle attempted to intervene, but his bike became tangled with the carriage and the officer fell to the ground. The carriage eventually came to a stop two blocks later when it struck a parked car. Both the driver and the police officer sustained injuries.

Following its investigation, the City Council held multiple public hearings, which I and others in our organization attended and contributed public comment. After this lengthy deliberative process, in November 2014, the Salt Lake City Council passed an ordinance on a 7-0 vote that banned the use of horse-drawn carriages.³ The ordinance contains a narrow exception for special events and parades, where roadways would typically be closed off to motor vehicle traffic and other protective measures implemented. Since this time, Chicago passed its own measure prohibiting horse-drawn carriages, citing bold leadership from our city to create a more humane and safe urban landscape. Chicago's ban was labeled a 2020 'Feel Good Story' by *The Associated Press*.⁴

For seven years, our organization believed this issue was settled. However, earlier this year, our organization started to receive unconfirmed reports from concerned eyewitnesses who claimed to have seen horse carriages operating on busy downtown streets. On Saturday, August 6, 2022, these rumors were confirmed, as I observed a horse-drawn carriage on West Temple near the Salt Palace Convention Center (see

³ Peterson, Eric. SLC Council Bans Horse-Drawn Carriages. *Salt Lake City Weekly*. November 25, 2014. Available at <https://www.cityweekly.net/BuzzBlog/archives/2014/11/25/slc-council-bans-horse-drawn-carriages>.

⁴ Horse Carriage Ban: Chicago's 2020 'Feel Good Story'. *The Associated Press*. December 29, 2020. Available at <https://apnews.com/article/health-coronavirus-pandemic-animal-welfare-lung-disease-diseases-and-conditions-a7bdd31bffb2c182a07e54a0a29a4279>.

attached two photographs). The carriage was causing a significant obstruction of traffic, especially considering the existing lane closure on this street due to construction. The carriage displayed a sign which identified itself as belonging to “The Carriage Establishment,” with a phone number of 801-698-6181. Upon further research, it appears that this company is continuing to solicit business/rides using an Instagram account ‘@thecarriageest’ and was advertising that it would be available for impromptu rides on the day I observed it. It advertised its available times as from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Hilton Hotel near 200 S. West Temple. On Monday, August 7,⁵ and again on Saturday August 20,⁶ The Carriage Establishment made additional posts soliciting business from people interested in rides. These violations appear to be ongoing.⁷

The Carriage Establishment is a Kaysville-based company, established the same year Salt Lake City implemented its ban. The company is operated by Dale & Karen Greenwell, both of whom spoke during the public comment period (in opposition of the ban) at the same City Council meeting where a ban was passed on a 7-0 vote.⁸ It appears, based on comparing photographs, that Dale Greenwell was the driver of the carriage that I witnessed on August 6, 2022 in Salt Lake City. **This indicates that Dale Greenwell and The Carriage Establishment are knowingly and willfully violating city law by continuing to operate a horse-drawn carriage on busy city streets. This cannot be tolerated.**

A concerned member of the public has provided UARC with evidence that The Carriage Establishment has plans to once again operate its horse-drawn carriage in downtown Salt Lake City this Saturday, August 27, 2022. UARC is urging the City Council to take swift action. First, UARC urges the city to utilize whatever enforcement mechanisms are currently at its disposal to immediately stop any further violations of law by this particular unlawful business. Salt Lake City should take action in conjunction with the city’s Business Licensing office and Salt Lake County Animal Services, which has a contract with the city to enforce animal-related ordinances. Second, the City Council should consider strengthening its horse-drawn carriage ban by including a clearer and stronger enforcement mechanism, including the explicit inclusion of criminal and civil penalties for violators.

⁵ <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cg7mKduhHaL/>. Screenshot attached.

⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/p/ChddPgNO2J8/>. Screenshot attached

⁷ https://www.instagram.com/p/ChAaPp_OjmE/. Screenshot attached.

⁸ Peterson, Eric. SLC Council Bans Horse-Drawn Carriages. *Salt Lake City Weekly*. November 25, 2014. Available at <https://www.cityweekly.net/BuzzBlog/archives/2014/11/25/slc-council-bans-horse-drawn-carriages>.

May I hear from you this week on what immediate steps the city will take before this company violates the law again this Saturday? I appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JEREMY BECKHAM". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of each word being larger and more prominent. The name is written in all caps.

Jeremy Beckham
Director
Utah Animal Rights Coalition
jeremy@uarc.io | 385-401-4301

SATURDAY ONLY!

AUGUST 20, 2022 6PM--11:30PM

HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES

We stage near the Hilton Hotel
200 S. West Temple in Downtown SLC

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE
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thecarriageest Make your plans for Saturday night! August 20th we are in downtown SLC. Come join us for a memorable horse drawn carriage ride. Reserve your spot now or first come, first serve. Call/text Dale 801-698-6181 now. www.thecarriageestablishment.com

2d



3 likes

2 DAYS AGO



Today Only

SLC DOWNTOWN HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES

Date
Night



Something
New

Make a
Memory

Celebrate
Today .

6:30pm - 8:30 pm

(Staging near Hilton Hotel 200 S. West Temple)



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thecarriageest Wondering what to do tonight? We've got a perfect idea! Take a carriage ride with us!

2d



2 likes

2 DAYS AGO



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Thank You for Riding with Us!

Thanks to all who joined us for our downtown SLC rides on Saturday! So glad the skies cleared--it was a perfect night to enjoy a horse drawn carriage ride.



If you missed us, call/text Dale at 801-698-6181 to book your ride. Don't miss out on your chance to create your special memory.



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thecarriageest Mark Summer 2022 as a time to remember... Look forward to a one-of-a-kind experience with someone important to you... Propose a new life together... Surprise them with a ride... Start a tradition... Just because... With The Carriage Establishment the possibilities are endless. www.thecarriageestablishment.com

23h



4 likes

23 HOURS AGO



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