



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177

krworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 19, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Supporting the End of the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China

RECOMMENDATION:

Support the measure to end the consumption, illegal trade, killing, and abuse of animals in the Lychee and Dog Meat Festival (Yulin Dog Meat Festival), in Yulin, China.

BACKGROUND:

Dating back decades, eating dog meat at the Yulin Dog Meat Festival was once a delicacy; but now it only violates animal cruelty laws, is illegal, and ultimately unsanitary. As of June 2016, there are over 11 million people who have signed an online petition to end the Dog Meat Festival. They have written a resolution that cites the Festival as being inhumane, a public health risk, and want the festival to end immediately.

The Dog Meat Festival does exhibit elements of animal cruelty. There are some superstitions that abusing the animals (for example, beating, blowtorching, or otherwise hurting them) makes them taste better. Regardless of whether or not the deaths are humane, the animals are still killed. This violates animal abuse laws and should be considered when the council makes a decision on ending the festival.

Additionally, the Dog Meat Festival promotes the illegal dog trade. Many pets are stolen from their homes or bought and sold without the proper health permits. This illegal trade is unsanitary, because without health records or vaccinations, the dogs may have rabies or other harmful diseases. Without proper health regulations, people are subjected to infectious diseases or potentially life-threatening illnesses. This measure supports the ending of the illegal dog trade, which should extend lifespans and make sure that people do not acquire chronic illnesses from unvaccinated animals.

Finally, the public is overwhelmingly in support of ending this festival. Notwithstanding the 11 million people who have signed the petition to end the festival, there are statistics from BBC news that show that not only have the majority of Yulin residents never eaten dog meat, they are also in support of the festival being banned. There is also tremendous public support from mass media. With the passage of this measure, the Berkeley city council will help support steps to end the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin.

Links:

1. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/cfthomas/2016/06/23/5-things-to-know-about-chinas-yulin-dog-meat-festival/#4445ef9a8e6c>
2. <http://time.com/4363824/yulindogmeatfestivalchinapetition/>
3. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/19/opinions/china-yulin-dog-meat-festival-outrage/>
4. <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/morepressureonchinese/2861588.html>
5. <http://www.shanghaidaily.com/nation/Business-bad-at-dog-meat-festival/shdaily.shtml>
6. http://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/10/world/asia/china-yulin-dog-meat-festival.html?_r=1
7. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/06/china-yulin-dog-meat-festival-controversy/>
8. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/yulindogmeatfestivalbanpetition11millionssignslaughtersthousandsanimalschinaa7081521.html>
9. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2016/06/13/chinese-activist-gathers-11-million-signatures-boycott-yulin-dog-meat-festival/>
10. <http://www.weirdasianews.com/2016/06/30/controversial-dog-meat-festival-ends/>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington	510-981-7170
Ankita Ramakrishnan	510-981-7170