



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

BELLMORE, NY

Protests at Bellmore Festival stop abusive animal show

Hempstead Supervisor Candidate Diane Madden (LBT) protested "Wild World of Animals" at Bellmore Street Festival, got it shut down

The Chamber of Commerce of the Bellmores organized a street festival that included the exploitation of wild animals, including a leopard, bearcat, pot-bellied pigs, an alligator, a European Eagle Owl and many more. The display was put on by the Wild World of Animals, an exhibitor with a long list of federal Animal Welfare Act citations.

Madden states, "I originally planned to attend the fair to make sure the public knows they have another choice for Hempstead Supervisor and while I thought I'd only be dealing with the usual opposition to campaign freely throughout the fair, I came upon the information that animals were again being exploited and, even worse, the citations against Wild World of Animals were being ignored. I immediately partnered with John DiLeonardo, founder of Long Island Orchestrating for Nature (LION), as well as representatives from The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) to raise public awareness and also urge the Chamber and Hempstead officials to discontinue future exploitation of animals disguised as "entertainment."

The first of six scheduled protests took place at 12:30 - 1:30 between Oak St. and Bedford Ave., Bellmore, NY. Diane Madden, in partnership with local and national animal welfare and protection agencies successfully closed down the performance and came to a workable agreement by which the Bellmore Chamber of Commerce would no longer exploit animals, nor use them for entertainment and the five remaining protests would be called off. The Chamber, witnessed by Nassau County Police Officers, agreed to these terms and committed to end these cruel performances, no longer allowing their participation in the future.

According to The Humane Society of the United States, "Exotic animal displays present a public safety risk, are detrimental to animal welfare, distract from educational efforts about the importance of agriculture and undermine legitimate conservation efforts." Additionally, HSUS

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notes many risks to the public at similar festivals such as "bacterial, fungal and parasitic infections, which can be transmitted to humans."

Madden continued, "By now, everyone has been well informed of the suffering of animals, documented mismanagement and wasteful spending at the Hempstead Shelter, which has taken place under booth major parties. It's time Hempstead officials take this opportunity to change their age old reputation. Since neither of my opponents have vowed to correct the findings of the County's scathing fiscal audit of the shelter nor bring in the animal care experts urged by the Comptroller, maybe in this case, they can take some advice from the biggest animal advocacy organizations locally and nationally, while encouraging the Chambers and all future TOH festival and fair events to move in the direction where animals are not harmed for entertainment, as other Long Island municipalities already have."

Diane Madden is the only candidate with the proven ability to stop animal abuse. Now, she plans on stopping the abuse of the Town of Hempstead and its residents by corrupt politicians.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

For information about the Nassau County Libertarian Party, see <nassaulibertarian.org>

For links to the candidates' websites and social media, see <nassaulibertarian.org>

For information on the policies and positions of the Libertarian Party, see <lp.org>

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