

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the recent application applied for by Brandon Vanderwel for land in the South Huron area to be used as a lion sanctuary for lions Pride and Joy.

I have known Brandon for approximately 4 years. As a business consultant I have worked with him on many projects. Helping the homeless, supplying homes for Community Living when other property companies/landlords would not and helping the mentally delicate during Covid. He is in the business of helping. As such he was introduced to two animals that needed help. The lions were in a poor situation and again Brandon stepped in to help assuming that he was able to keep them safe at a property that was previously zoned for a zoo. After that fell through Brandon has worked tirelessly to find appropriate accommodations for Pride and Joy that not only protect them, but also the public. I believe the area he has purposed does both of those.

I am aware that the public is concerned, but I have never met a man more dedicated to helping animals and people. There is no doubt in my mind that he will put every effort forth to keep both the animals and people in the area protected and safe.

The alternative for these poor animals is not good. Zoos do not just "take" animals in. These animals have been previously used and left as domesticated animals that are unable to be reintroduced into the wild. As such they can only be euthanized or placed in a sanctuary. This is the best alternative for the animals, the area proposed is a safe distance away from people, the lions will not be used for profit and Brandon is capable of financially supporting them. Although I do not live directly in the area, I would have no issue living in the proximity knowing that Brandon would ensure the animals are well cared for, secured properly and everyone safe.

I appreciate your time and consideration and trust that all will make an educated and rational decision based on facts and not irrational fear.

Thank you,

Angel Neill

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