

June 16, 2023

Sergeant Daniel Cordero
Animal Cruelty Team
Dallas Police Department

Via email: [REDACTED]

Re: Request to Investigate Jonathan Wright for Apparent Violations of Texas Penal Code § 42.092(b) and Dallas City Ordinance § 7-6.1(a)

Dear Sergeant Cordero,

I am writing on behalf of PETA to request that you investigate Jonathan Wright for owning two young macaque monkeys within the City of Dallas—in apparent violation of Dallas City Ordinance § 7-6.1(a)—both of whom have recently died, indicating that Wright may also have violated Texas Penal Code § 42.092(b).

Pursuant to City Ordinance § 7-6.1(a)(1), a “person commits an offense if he ... owns a prohibited animal for any purpose in the city.” Such offense is punishable by a criminal penalty of not less than \$150 and not to exceed \$2,000, since the prohibition concerns public health (*See* City Ordinance § 7-8.1[d][1], [e][3]). Section 7-1.1(30) defines “prohibited animal,” in relevant part, as a “non-human primate (other than a spider monkey or capuchin)” —which includes macaques.

Penal Code § 42.092(b)(3) dictates that a “person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly ... fails unreasonably to provide necessary food, water, care, or shelter for an animal in the person’s custody.” Such offense constitutes a class A misdemeanor (*see* Penal Code § 42.092[c]). “‘Animal’ means a domesticated living creature ... [or] a wild living creature previously captured” (*Id.* § 42.092[a][2]).

Jonathan Wright is a hairstylist and the owner of Freeenn’s Palace, located at 211 N Ervay Street, Suite #130, Dallas, Texas 75201. According to his public Instagram account, Wright has recently owned two young [macaque monkeys](#). Freeenn and Deor, both of whom he appears to have [acquired](#) in or about [July 2020](#) (Exs. 1, 2, 3). Wright routinely posted photos and videos of himself taking one or both of the monkeys to various locations within Dallas, such as [Freeenn’s Palace](#) and [Don Morphy](#), a menswear store located at 1500 Hi Line Dr Suite A, Dallas, Texas 75207 (Exs. 4, 5). Just last month, Wright used Deor for a [meet and greet at Freeenn’s Palace](#) to promote the [one year anniversary of his business](#) (Ex. 6, 7).

On June 15, however, Wright posted that Deor had [died](#) (Ex. 8). This follows the earlier [death of Freeenn](#), which Wright announced in an Instagram post on

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September 13, 2021 (Ex. 9). Wright did not reveal how either animal died. The average lifespan of a macaque in captivity is approximately 25 years.

Not only do Wright's Instagram posts reveal that he has apparently openly violated City Ordinance § 7-6.1(a)(1) by possessing two prohibited animals within Dallas city limits, but the untimely deaths of both animals in short succession suggests that Wright failed to provide them with necessary care, as required under Penal Code § 42.092(b)(3). PETA urges the Dallas Police Department to investigate the deaths of these two young macaques and to hold Wright fully accountable for any and all criminal violations of city or state law.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,



Molly Johnson
Senior Counsel and Manager of Regulatory Affairs
Captive Animal Law Enforcement
PETA Foundation

[Redacted contact information]

