

Communication from Public

Name: Douglas Corey
Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 03:25 PM
Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember Blumenfield: As veterinarians with many years of experience in treating and working with a variety of animals and serving various rodeo associations, we are writing to state our opposition to an ordinance being considered by the Los Angeles City Council that will essentially ban rodeo, bull riding and some equestrian events. The Los Angeles City Council has drafted an ill-informed, unnecessary and detrimental proposed ordinance regulating the safety equipment in rodeo. Let us briefly outline why this is, quite simply, very bad and harmful legislation in the face of how rodeo animals are actually treated. The health and safety of all animals involved in rodeo and bull riding events is of paramount importance to every rodeo organization. There is a zero-tolerance policy in place for the mistreatment of any animal. Rodeo is currently regulated by CA Penal code 596.7; however, rodeo and bull riding organizations greatly respect the valuable animal athletes in their events and go above and beyond these regulations. There are penalties for the mistreatment of animals. The ordinance will ban equipment that is actually designed for the safety of the animal and the contestants. While we appreciate the "intent" to protect animals, the language in the ordinance, in the name of animal safety, will ban animal safety equipment. As a result, a domino effect of unintended consequences will be triggered that will effectively result in banning all rodeo and equestrian events (including two from the upcoming 2028 Olympics), and other equestrian activities that are culturally relevant, historically important, support minority businesses and athletes, and bring millions of dollars of economic impact to LA. This ordinance feeds on disinformation that animal injuries are "common" in rodeo when they are actually extremely rare. PRCA, the leading rodeo association which tracks and reports all injuries occurring in the state to the California Veterinary Medical Board, has a 99.9% safety rating with the livestock in rodeo. Less than 1% of livestock exposures result in an injury – and to be more precise, it is an injury rate of .00046, or just under five-hundredths of 1%. Additionally, bull injuries occurring in .0002% of outs (the bull leaving the chute). In more than 5,000 PBR bull outs in 2020, there were two injuries. The Los Angeles proposed ordinance, as currently written will ban equipment that is necessary for human and animal safety in rodeo

and bull riding and presumes or adopts many misconceptions about the equipment, which we address below.

Flank or Bucking Straps

1. Flank straps are used as an extra cue to encourage and enhance the bucking action of an animal with the natural inclination to buck.
2. Flank straps never contain any sharp objects and do not harm or injure the bulls or horses and do not make them buck. Horses and bulls are bred to buck. Genetics are the most prevalent factor in determining the animal's ability to buck.

Electric Prods

1. Electric prods are used for the safety of the animal or contestant when moving the animals. They are not used to encourage an animal to compete.
2. The electric prod has an output so small that it is measured in milliamps (1/1000th of an amp)
3. Use of electric prods in any California rodeo is used in compliance with existing CA penal code 596.7.

Wire Tie-Downs

1. The tie-down is a safety device, which does not harm the horse. Made of leather, cotton, wax string or rope, it serves as a balance point for the horse to keep its head down as it is running.
2. Any wire tie-downs must have a covering to protect the animal.

Sharpened or Fixed Spurs or Rowels

1. All rowels on riders' spurs in rodeo and bull riding are dull and do not harm the animal. Sharpened rowels are not permitted.
2. The spurs in the bucking horse events are used by the contestants for balance and to keep time with the animal, which is not harmed.
3. In the PBR, spurs are used by riders to help grip and balance on the bull. PBR mandates a spur rowel that is dull. As concerned veterinarians who respect the animal athletes and the care they receive in rodeo as well as the benefit these events generate from cultural, educational, and economic perspective, we urge the City Council to not move forward with this proposal. It is unnecessary for a sport that already protects its animal athletes, and it would be detrimental to the people of Los Angeles in many ways.

Respectfully, Arturo Esquivel, DVM Aubrey E Sloan, DVM Ben Espy, DVM Bobby Lewis, DVM Brad Jackman, DVM Bradley Perdue, DVM Bud Sloan, DVM Caitlin Zacha, DVM Charles Liskey, DVM Chris Smith, DVM Dave Fly, DVM Douglas Corey, DVM Fallon Haig, DVM George Dyck, DVM Harry Werner, DVM Jerry Black, DVM Jim Furman, DVM Joe Carter, DVM Marty Tanner, DVM Mike Giacopuzzi, DVM Mike Peralez, DVM Richard Giacopuzzi, DVM Ryan Carpenter, DVM Sara Campbell, DVM Tim Eastman, DVM Tom Lenz, DVM William Moyer, DVM

Western Sports Industry Coalition

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CF 20-1575 (Rodeo Events)

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Richard Giacomuzzi, DVM
Ryan Carpenter, DVM
Sara Campbell, DVM
Tim Eastman, DVM
Tom Lenz, DVM
William Moyer, DVM

Cc:

The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
The Honorable Paul Koretz
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
The Honorable Mike Bonin
The Honorable Gil Cedillo
The Honorable Paul Krekorian
The Honorable Nithya Raman
The Honorable Nury Martinez

The Honorable Monica Rodriguez

The Honorable Curren Price

The Honorable John Lee

The Honorable Kevin de Leon

The Honorable Joe Buscaino

Communication from Public

Name: Trinity Hale
Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 03:33 PM
Council File No: 20-1575
Comments for Public Posting: Rodeos are amazing. Y'all are dumb.

Communication from Public

Name: Karen Fornoff

Date Submitted: 01/30/2022 03:53 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I have been a supporter of rodeo for many years. I am a farmer and animal owner as well. It is such a great part of our life and heritage. Our animals are considered a part of our family. We understand that our lifestyle and livelihood are dependent on taking the best care of our animals . In this time in America where we are talking about our history and heritage, it makes no sense that we forget our western heritage as well. Again this issue is being hijacked by a small portion of the public that does not have their facts correct and are attempting to paint a picture that is false. Please allow rodeo and the western lifestyle t continue.

Communication from Public

Name: Tracy

Date Submitted: 01/30/2022 04:13 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Please DO NOT ban rodeo. There are 4 generations in this family who love, care for, and respect our animals as family members that are our partners in rodeo. I feel we are being wrongly attacked by people who are very misinformed! We would love to arrange a visit with any of the members to let them witness first hand our lifestyle.

Communication from Public

Name: Rob Reece

Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 05:53 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: I love rodeo. I love animals. I grew up on a farm with cattle and sheep. I went to college and had an awesome IT career. Where I educated my coworkers on all things rodeo. Most of them really appreciated the sport before I retired. It really comes down to education. The people that are making the decision to cancel rodeo are uneducated on the subject and/or are reading or listening to incorrect and incomplete information. The people that raise these animals love them like you love your dog or cat, there is no difference. These animals are athletes just like football players. These animals are probably treated better than football players. These animals have far fewer injuries than football players, so when will you be canceling football? The truth of the matter is that these animal rights people don't have a clue as to what happens at hundreds of rodeos worldwide each year. They focus on one or two moments in time and ignore the millions of moments that make rodeo. Please take some time and go to a rodeo with someone that can explain to you what is really happening. I think you'll see that it's really one of the last true sports that's not full of greed and over paid whining babies. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to voice our opinions...Rob

Communication from Public

Name: Sammy Williamson
Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 06:08 AM
Council File No: 20-1575
Comments for Public Posting: They do not hurt the rodeo animals. Do not cancel any rodeos.
Thanks Sammy

Communication from Public

Name: Andy Bush

Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 06:35 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Do not do away with rodeos. The animals in these events are usually well taken care of and often times treated better than most domestic animals. The people that work and attend these events are hard working, God fearing patriots that love this country and everything about the pioneering spirit that helped build this country. To cancel rodeos would be an insult to the people that work hard to bring in revenue and tourism to the state.

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecka McClelland-Verdun
Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 07:25 AM
Council File No: 20-1575
Comments for Public Posting: Posting in support of America's oldest and greatest sport RODEO. The sport that is most family oriented and friendly, the only sport that ALL the players still honor our GREAT and AWESOME National Anthem and the American flag.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 09:44 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't get rid of rodeo!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 09:45 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Don't stop the rodeo and traditions!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 08:17 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't ban the rodeo, the animals are loved and very well taken care of.

Communication from Public

Name: Leah Clarke Fisher

Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 08:17 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: The rodeo industry and events alike are no different than any other events that include competitors and livestock. In this day and age the livestock have unbelievable veterinarian care at home, too and from events. The rodeo industry does far more than entertain. It provides even more than a way of life for families, committees, livestock, sponsors and many more. It's memorializes a past time brought into the future in the most aware and healthy form possible.

Communication from Public

Name: Jarrett Jameson

Date Submitted: 01/31/2022 07:18 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Keep Rodeo alive. Stop listening to the folks who know nothing about animal care. Rodeo is a true American sport.