

Communication from Public

Name: VANESSA BANUELOS

Date Submitted: 05/27/2021 04:27 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeo is a part of our heritage, it cannot be stripped away from us

Communication from Public

Name: Neil

Date Submitted: 05/27/2021 04:37 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers: My name is Neil Ritchey, and I'd like to express my opposition to the proposed ordinance that will ban rodeo and bull riding in Los Angeles. I'm a long time Los Angeles resident and homeowner and have enjoyed the rodeo and bull riding events that have come through the Los Angeles area. Anyone who takes the time to look into how these animals are treated and how they love these events would understand just how wrong this proposed ordinance would be. Compare these to police dogs or horses used in policing and you'd find that the life of these rodeo and bull riding animals is a much better existence, and I'm not degrading the police animals as I have a lot of respect for how they are treated and loved. Just please understand that the rodeo animals are loved and treated even better than that and equal to or better than all the privately owned livestock animals within your jurisdiction. Bull riding teaches important values like hard work, charity, respect, responsibility, and honesty. The sport is inclusive and promotes equality. Everyone is welcome. These values are needed today more than ever. Especially for our youth. If this ordinance goes forward, it will ban PBR and rodeo in Los Angeles. We need to celebrate all cowboys, their strong values, and all the great things they stand for, not prevent them from showcasing their skills in Los Angeles! I urge you to please not move forward with this proposal – it is unnecessary because PBR already protects its great animal athletes, and it would be detrimental to Los Angeles in many ways. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. Thank you, Neil Ritchey

Communication from Public

Name: Guadalupe Covarrubias-Martinez

Date Submitted: 05/27/2021 05:22 PM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Guadalupe Covarrubias-Martinez and I'd like to express my opposition to the proposed ordinance that will ban rodeo and bull riding in Los Angeles. I am from Northern California and I have attended and/or volunteered at several rodeo/PBR/Charro events in Northern California. I have also attended several of these events not only Northern California but also in the LA area, Nevada and Texas. I also have family in the LA area who have either been employed through a rodeo/PBR/charro event in LA/So Cal or volunteered at one of those events. Anyone who is a fan of western sports knows that the health and safety of the animals in these events is very important to all involved. They know that there are already laws in place regarding rodeo equipment and usage in California. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association also has over 70 rules pertaining to the safety of the livestock and contestants. These laws and rules already address spurs, flank straps and electric prod usage. Penal code 596.7 already restricts the use of electric prods, flank straps are fleece lined or soft rope, and sharp spurs are prohibited and locked spurs are prohibited in saddle bronc and bareback events. We take great pride in our rodeo livestock. Rodeo people make their living by breeding, training and working with the animal athletes. They make sure these animals get the best care. These are not wild animals forced to compete – they're bred and trained for rodeo. They are not abused. Our animals are often worth thousands of dollars and are bred for their job as a rodeo athlete. Items such as flank straps are not used to hurt an animal but for the safety of the animal and the rider. Flank straps are lined with fleece and never placed too tightly as the animal will not buck if that is the case. Spurs are not sharp as often indicated and electric prods can only be used in case of an emergency when the chute gate is open and the life of the animal and/or rider is threatened. No one involved in Rodeo or the western industry was consulted by the Los Angeles City Council before they pushed the drafting of the ordinance forward. At least take the opportunity to educate yourselves about the equipment and usage before passing an ordinance. There are a number of businesses that count on the Professional Bull Riding and rodeo related activities at venues like the Staples Center that draw capacity crowds for their business. Those restaurants and

businesses that gain income from the economic impact of these events will see their bottom line negatively impacted. If this ordinance goes forward, it will ban in Los Angeles rodeo, bull riding and various equestrian events—affecting the charros rodeo, the all-Black rodeo planned for STAPLES Center, PBR, any future PRCA rodeos, Compton Cowboys exhibitions, and even several Olympic equestrian sports. This is not just banning sports that bring economic impact to LA but even worse, equestrian events and exhibitions here that change lives. Rodeo teaches important values like hard work, charity, respect, responsibility, and honesty. The sport is inclusive and promotes equality. Everyone is welcome. These values are needed today more than ever. Especially for our youth. We need to celebrate all cowboys, their strong values, and all the great things they stand for, not prevent them from showcasing their skills in Los Angeles! I urge you to please not move forward with this proposal – it's unnecessary for a sport that already protects its animal athletes as a model steward in caring and treating for these animals, and it would be detrimental to Los Angeles in many ways. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. Respectfully,
Guadalupe Covarrubias-Martinez Salinas, California
helperbee@yahoo.com

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/27/2021 05:27 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: The sport of bull riding actually protects these animals. Male bovines Taking this sport away are almost always headed for slaughter. Even prize bulls are doomed as without handling, they usually turn mean. Bucking bulls and rodeo livestock retire to actual greener pasture. If this were applied to horse racing, they would simply breed fewer thoroughbreds. Dog racing, same. Not true with cattle. They would still breed just as many. These animals are so well cared for. Part of the proof is how most, not all, react to humans. They like to be pet and shown affection. Taking this sport out of existence would be cancelling a culture that has been the backbone of the nation's progress from Pilgrims in New England to the Silicon Valley we know today.