

Communication from Public

Name: Edward Ramirez

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Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Los Angeles City Council Members: To what degree will animal rights activists prey on ignorance to advance their agenda? At the 02:13 minute mark of the October 15, 2016 'Rodeo is Animal Cruelty' video, referring to the flank strap used on bucking bulls, the narrator states; "...which means the rope (flank strap) is cinched tightly across his (the bulls) penis." Anatomically impossible. We are aware that through a unanimous vote, the Los Angeles City Council has requested the City Attorney craft an ordinance to ban flank straps at all rodeos throughout the Councils jurisdiction. This petition is based on shock propaganda as exemplified above heralded by campaign contribution friendly animal rights promoters. Flank straps have never been evidenced to have harmed any rodeo stock in the 138 years since organized rodeo was introduced to the public in North America. Considered by animal rights provocateurs as provoking rodeo violence, flank straps are about as harmful to an animal as a wedgie is to a middle school student. The 8 seconds during which a bucking animal is attached to a flank strap over years of rodeo performances amounts to no more than 10 minutes of exposure after which the animals are let out to pasture. The L.A. City Council also seeks the ordinance ban 'wire tie-down' calf roping. Wires have never been used for this event or any other rodeo event; another example of the total ignorance shown by some concerning rodeo. The City Council should be focused on more pressing animal welfare issues including but not limited to the enforcement of the federal law that criminalizes the blood sport of dog fighting at epidemic levels in Los Angeles, or the abhorrent Asian live animal food markets that have long been attacked by animal rights advocates but continue to exist in California. Based on the facts herein outlined, our organization, representing Mexican American charro rodeo, respectfully requests that the proposed ordinance not include the criminalization of flank straps at rodeos. All concerned should consider; "The most violent element in society is ignorance." Edward F. Ramirez Mexican American Classic Charrería Organization