

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bucky Reece

**Date Submitted:** 11/26/2021 05:34 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** These gentlemen and animals are pure athletes. The sport is great and entertaining.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bridget Paley

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 09:09 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** Any ordinance to stop any and all rodeo sports is effectively editing out the significant contributions of people of color. The amazing ability of rodeos such as the Bill Pickett rodeo reflects the reality that African Americans have always been part of the building success of agriculture in the United States. The Compton Cowboys group has made a significant difference for the people that they have helped. The Mexican American rodeos are beautiful pageantry and celebration of great pride in the skills of ranching in this nation. Please consider the population as an inclusive whole that come together for rodeos and demonstrate the true history of inclusion. The 20th century movie industry cowboy genre white washed, mocked, and made villains of people of color. Removing rodeo sports would reinforce that rewrite. The livestock are well cared for by the businesses that supply rodeo events. Ranchers and Rancheros work with the animals by choice and care very much for their well-being, breeding, and treatment as the reality of the cattle industry serves food for the omnivorous human population.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Zach Huddleston  
**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 09:28 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1575  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing to support the Bill Pickett Rodeo. I think it's an important event to have in Los Angeles county for representation and entertainment.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Derek Paul Flor  
**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 09:36 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1575  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please consider that you have a constitutional responsibility to serve the people, not an agenda that serves your political future. These people's livelihood is dependent on the care of their animals, not the abuse of their animals, no matter how the optics look. Let there be FREEDOM in America and less of your intrusive and ultimately unconstitutional reach into the lives of Americans.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elizabeth Gray Bayne

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 09:14 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** I have spent the last six years documenting the Black cowboy community and the last three producing a documentary about a Black rodeo family. And the very first thing I learned about the rodeo, is how much care and attention is provided for each and every animal. Their horses are an extension of the family. In my film, I followed a Black family for a single junior rodeo season. My crew would meet the mother, father and daughter at the stables sometimes as early as 5AM to film them feeding and grooming their horses and cleaning the stalls. The daughter, who was the main focus of the film, can tell you on which horse in the stable she took her first ride. She can recount the distinct personality of each and every horse, their favorite foods and funny quirks. Her father can recall being put on a horse as a baby and refusing to get off until he fell asleep. He can tell you the exact breed and age of each of his horses, where they were born and how he raised them himself and nursed them back to health. He can tell you how to tell if a horse is sick, hungry, or just needs some attention. These are horse people. They spend more time with their horses than they do people. They ride their horses to rivers in the summers and let them play and splash in the cool water. They take their race horses to spas where they get massages and hi tech treatments that I would have been lucky to receive as a college track athlete. The rodeo is a community of people who have lived with, grown up with and loved their horses for generations. For many, the rodeo is not just recreation, but a way of life. And for the family that I followed in my film, horses are also their livelihood. They have had a family owned and operated pony riding business for generations. For these self-identified cowgirls and cowboys, horses are part of their culture. And they endeavor to share their love of horses and educate the public about them at every event they attend. It is culturally insensitive and elitist for a group who has no daily interaction with horses to judge a community that they are not a part of, have made no attempt to understand, and no attempt to dialogue with. I recommend that the organizations using outdated, inaccurate and misleading information about rodeo, actually sit down and have a conversation with someone who competes in the rodeo. They would learn that they have a lot more in common with the rodeo community than they think. In these few short years, I have

learned so much from just talking to people from the junior rodeo community. I have learned that many of the children who compete in the junior rodeo have grown up taking care of horses their whole lives -- that their first responsibilities were cleaning the stables so the horses could be comfortable, grooming them so they could stay healthy, and learning to communicate and build relationships with their horses so that they earn their trust. There are many different ways to live in American society and many unique subcultures. Rodeo culture is one where people live alongside their animals and treat them with love, care and respect. I did not have the benefit of growing up with horses as a child, but loved reading about them in books. I did not attend my first rodeo until I was an adult. Banning rodeos from Los Angeles would be a missed opportunity to educate the public about our American heritage, the Black cowboy legacy, and the unparalleled dignity, beauty and strength of horses and the sense of purpose and pride that comes from caring for one. I urge LA City Council to turn down this ordinance to ban rodeos in Los Angeles and investigate the validity of the claims being levied against this community. Talk to a cowboy, spend a day at their stables. That's all the evidence you need that these claims of abuse are false. Here are links to three short films that I have produced on the subject: >> Bulldogging: <https://vimeo.com/graybayne/cowboyproject> >> A Cowgirl and Her Horse: <https://vimeo.com/256662975> >> Continuing A Legacy: <https://reelsisters.org/cinema-spotlight-continuing-a-legacy/>  
Thank you for your attention to this important issue!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Trevor  
**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 11:24 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1575  
**Comments for Public Posting:** We oppose the ordinance to ban certain rodeo devices.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chad Mathews  
**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 10:29 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1575  
**Comments for Public Posting:** I fully support the sport of rodeo in Los Angeles



## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 10:33 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am in full support of rodeo. People who say that rodeo animals are abused are uneducated about the sport of rodeo. The rodeo animals are the heart of the sport. Without the animals there would not be a sport. The last thing anybody in the sport of rodeo wants to see is an animal get hurt. All of the rules and guidelines are set for the animals safety.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 10:37 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** 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. 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. Unfortunately, this ordinance, if approved, would also eliminate events in the 2028 Olympics, as well as the Bill Pickett Black Cowboys Rodeo and many other events.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** SL

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 10:18 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** Our family's favorite event every year is the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, named after a proRodeo Hall of famer and famous cowboy, Bill Pickett. We have so much fun watching children, young men and women, and even elders barrel racing and parading in front of so many Los Angeles families. This is particularly meaningful for African American children and families, who see less and less representation of themselves in Los Angeles in general. For rodeo, this is their only opportunity. There is absolutely no cruelty to animals in this rodeo. The audience gets to see positive relationships with animals in this rodeo. I would never support cruelty to animals, but this rodeo just doesn't have it. You cannot paint all events with such a wide brush. It would be a huge mistake to ban the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo. We don't have much left in Los Angeles for the Black community, and this is such a family-fun event. I encourage you all to look into this situation further. This is a well-established organization and event that we have missed so much during the pandemic. Good legislation has to be more specific than this particular ordinance. You will harm small businesses that operate at these events too. Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo is a celebration of African American culture that so many are completely unaware of.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 10:45 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** I do not support the ban on rodeo's.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ruth  
**Date Submitted:** 11/30/2021 10:46 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-1575  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please don't ban rodeo. It is a part of our heritage. It is a huge industry and many rodeos are philanthropic fundraisers for their communities.