

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Knowlton
Date Submitted: 04/03/2023 06:24 AM
Council File No: 20-1575
Comments for Public Posting: March 30, 2023 Los Angeles City Council City Hall Office 200 North Spring Street, Room 480 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: Proposed Ordinance 20-1575 Prohibiting Spurs in Equestrian Competitions Honorable Los Angeles City Council Members, I am contacting you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA). The USHJA is the National Association for the equestrian sports of Hunter/Jumper and Equitation, and is the Recognized Affiliate for the Hunter/Jumper Sport with the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). The USHJA is an organization dedicated to the promotion of fair sport, sportsmanship, and horse welfare, and takes an active interest in regulatory changes that could affect the Hunter/Jumper sport. In addition to operating in accordance with USEF safety and welfare rules, which apply to both horse and human participants in licensed competitions, USHJA requires all members to adhere to a Horse Welfare Code of Conduct. This policy specifies that the welfare of the horse is the first priority and must take precedent over any competitive, personal, or commercial benefits or interests. There are many rules in place to leverage penalties for any safety and welfare infractions that might occur in the Hunter/Jumper sport, including the improper use of spurs. The USHJA Board of Directors has learned that the Los Angeles City Council will soon consider a proposal to ban the use of spurs in equestrian competitions and activities. While the language in the proposed ordinance appears to focus on rodeo events, the USHJA Board is deeply concerned that a broader application could prohibit the use of any type of spurs in equine activities, including the spurs approved for responsible use in the Hunter/Jumper sport. The Board also believes that this action would negatively affect the Los Angeles equine industry, reducing its ability to attract equestrian sporting events that support the local economy. USHJA strongly recommends that the Los Angeles City Council consider feedback from industry organizations and professionals before taking any formal action, and encourages the Council to disapprove the spur prohibition ordinance. Sincerely, Mary Knowlton USHJA President cc: USHJA Board of Directors



March 30, 2023

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall Office
200 North Spring Street, Room 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proposed Ordinance 20-1575 Prohibiting Spurs in Equestrian Competitions

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USHJA strongly recommends that the Los Angeles City Council consider feedback from industry organizations and professionals before taking any formal action, and encourages the Council to disapprove the spur prohibition ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Knowlton".

Mary Knowlton
USHJA President

cc: USHJA Board of Directors