

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Hello, To the members of the Los Angeles city council. Hello and thank you for reading my message. Please vote no on this ban. I am a lifelong equestrian, lifelong resident of Los Angeles county, and lifelong voting Democrat. This issue is above the political divide. Please vote no on this ban. There is proof that rodeo and western sports still has a home in Los Angeles. The sport is popular across racial, economic and religious demographics. It pulls in a lot of money for this city and a ban on rodeo wouldn't make rodeo stop, it would make the professional rodeos have to take their business to other venues. And Angelenos would miss these events very much. Equestrians and bull riders care about one thing the most, and that is the health and well being of our animals. And the fact is simple. These tools are like any other tool, they do not cause harm unless misused with malicious intent. A leash on a dog is not abuse if it's used properly and for its the intended use, walking a dog. Can it be used to cause harm to a dog, yes, so can a newspaper. Neither of those things are banned in Los Angeles. Spurs are no different. they are a specific tool that help perform a specific task between an animal and their handler without causing direct harm to either. Spurs are not sharp, they do not cut the animal's skin. The rowels (the round pieces in the end) roll, which lessens the pressure as it's is moved along the animal's side. Also, the larger the rowel, the larger the surface area that touches the animal, which also lessens the pressure. Using a spur along an animal's side is a way to give a very specific and delicate cue. Imagine if I was asking you to move or flex a specific muscle in your arm, your bicep perhaps, and I couldn't do so with my words. I could put my whole hand on your arm and hope you understood, or I could poke or swipe over your bicep with just one finger. The cue would be much more clear as a poke than a slap. That's the difference between when I ride my horse without spurs vs. with spurs. My boot gives a dull cue while the spurs communicate exactly how I want him to move. And put it on the record that flank straps are not ever on or attached to an animal's genitals. It sits at their hips, like a human wearing a belt with low rise jeans. These animals are trained and conditioned to buck when that strap is on. They know once the rider is off and the strap is removed then it's time to go relax. The flank strap is another non-verbal cue. And electric candle prods are simply a

matter of safety. These animals are trained, they are used to humans. But they still have minds of their own. The keepers at the LA zoo have their methods of staying safe, as do the folks at the rodeo. This bill is not based on actual facts. And it's implementation would be completely hypocritical. For a city that is based on show businesses, why would you want to erase some of this city's most original, defining shared cultures. What is more LA than well trained animal athletes/actors/performers? Are the animal performers of Hollywood going to have to be moved out, too? Is asking them to stand on a busy, loud set all day under the enduring demands of an active movie set so stressful for the animals that we are going to remove them from work, too? Absolutely not, these animals are not harmed, and neither are the animals who perform in a rodeo. Los Angeles is home to a meat packing house, Farmer John. If we are allowed to have large-scale commercial slaughterhouses, we should be allowed to have rodeos. I'll end with this note. Equestrian sports and rodeo is and has been one of the few public past times beloved across all races and creeds. The rodeo unifies many folks who would otherwise not care to sit down, talk about issues. Take it from a democrat in a very conservative sport. My friends and I have a lot of differences, but we also see a lot of things similarly because we see our horses and our animals in the same way. Our common ground are our horses. The same is true for many Angelenos in this sport. For the safety of my horse, myself, and my neighbors who recreate in shared spaces such as Schabarum Park and Griffith Park, please do not vote yes on this bill. It is much safer for all involved when I cue my animal with the precise accuracy of my spurs than with the dull, vagueness of my boot alone. Thank you