

Communication from Public

Name: The American Morgan Horse Association, Inc., Carrie Mortensen, Executive Director

Date Submitted: 03/29/2023 10:41 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Council Members, I am writing to you as the Executive Director of the American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) which is the US Equestrian (USEF) recognized affiliate for the Morgan horse breed. It has recently come to our attention that there is a proposed ordinance coming before the Council that if approved, would prohibit the use of spurs in equestrian competitions operated in Los Angeles County. While the safety and well-being of horses and humans are of paramount importance to AMHA, we believe any consideration of a prohibition on the use of spurs must include consultation of industry professionals by the Los Angeles City Council. AMHA is particularly concerned with the proposed ordinance to prohibit the use of spurs in all equine activities and equestrian sports. As the USEF-recognized affiliate for Morgan horse competitions, our shows are governed by the rules and regulations of the United States Equestrian Federation. As you know, USEF maintains a robust set of rules that govern the safety and welfare of equine and human athletes at all activities at USEF-licensed competitions, including the use of spurs. In further support of the welfare of our members and their equine partners, USEF requires competitions to employ a USEF-licensed Steward or Technical Delegate who is charged with monitoring the competition, protecting the welfare and safety of equine and human athletes, reporting to USEF any violations of USEF rules, and intervening if warranted to ensure the well-being of equine and human athletes. The USEF rules provide for the implementation of penalties for violations of USEF rules, including the misuse of spurs. Los Angeles County is home to numerous Morgan horse enthusiasts and equestrian facilities. This provides children and adults of all ages with the ability to experience the joy of horse sports, the camaraderie of a vibrant equestrian community, and the ability to achieve their goals in equestrian competition. Furthermore, Los Angeles County is a potential site for the equestrian events associated with the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, competitions which include the use of spurs (as a rider's aid) under USEF and the rules of the international federation for equestrian sport, the Fédération Équestre International (FEI). Proposals such as this one will negatively

impact the ability for equestrian sport to thrive in this community and will also cause a negative economic impact in Los Angeles County. We recommend that the Los Angeles City Council vote against prohibiting the use of spurs in equestrian competitions and work with the applicable equestrian organizations to ensure a safe environment for all equine and human athletes. Kindest Regards,
Carrie J. Mortensen, AMHA Executive Director



March 28, 2023

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

Re: Adoption of an Ordinance That Would Prohibit the Use of Spurs in Equestrian Competitions

Dear Los Angeles City Council Members,

I am writing to you as the Executive Director of the American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA) which is the US Equestrian (USEF) recognized affiliate for the Morgan horse breed.

It has recently come to our attention that there is a proposed ordinance coming before the Council that if approved, would prohibit the use of spurs in equestrian competitions operated in Los Angeles County. While the safety and well-being of horses and humans are of paramount importance to AMHA, we believe any consideration of a prohibition on the use of spurs must include consultation of industry professionals by the Los Angeles City Council.

AMHA is particularly concerned with the proposed ordinance to prohibit the use of spurs in all equine activities and equestrian sports. As the USEF-recognized affiliate for Morgan horse competitions, our shows are governed by the rules and regulations of the United States Equestrian Federation. As you know, USEF maintains a robust set of rules that govern the safety and welfare of equine and human athletes at all activities at USEF-licensed competitions, including the use of spurs. In further support of the welfare of our members and their equine partners, USEF requires competitions to employ a USEF-licensed Steward or Technical Delegate who is charged with monitoring the competition, protecting the welfare and safety of equine and human athletes, reporting to USEF any violations of USEF rules, and intervening if warranted to ensure the well-being of equine and human athletes. The USEF rules provide for the implementation of penalties for violations of USEF rules, including the misuse of spurs.

Los Angeles County is home to numerous Morgan horse enthusiasts and equestrian facilities. This provides children and adults of all ages with the ability to experience the joy of horse sports, the camaraderie of a vibrant equestrian community, and the ability to achieve their goals in equestrian competition.

Furthermore, Los Angeles County is a potential site for the equestrian events associated with the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, competitions which include the use of spurs (as a rider's aid) under USEF and the rules of the international federation for equestrian sport, the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI). Proposals such as this one will negatively impact the ability for equestrian sport to thrive in this community and will also cause a negative economic impact in Los Angeles County.

We recommend that the Los Angeles City Council vote against prohibiting the use of spurs in equestrian competitions and work with the applicable equestrian organizations to ensure a safe environment for all equine and human athletes.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie J. Mortensen".

Carrie J. Mortensen, AMHA Executive Director

Cc: Steven Handy, AMHA President
William J. Moroney, US Equestrian CEO
Julie Broadway, American Horse Council President