



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

SUPPORT for File 20-1575, rodeo ordinance

1 message

mocrumbo <mocrumbo@pm.me>

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To: "clerk.cps@lacity.org" <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, "adam.lid@lacity.org" <adam.lid@lacity.org>, "CityClerk@lacity.org" <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Dear City Clerk and Mr. Lid:

We are writing this letter as citizens of Los Angeles, as well as representing several organizations that have California origins or connections:

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Latino (PETA Latino)

SHowing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK)

Last Chance for Animals (LCA)

Animal Defenders International (ADI)

In Defense of Animals (IDA)

Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF),

We also have Dr. Peggy Larson from Vermont who is a former bronc rider and rodeo vet & has also worked as a state prosecutor and USDA meat inspector.

We are contacting you on behalf of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's rodeo ordinance to offer our full support.

This ordinance has significant implications. How we treat animals is a direct reflection of how we treat others in our society.

Rodeos also target children, and claim to be "wholesome, family entertainment" but that is simply not true.

Consider the evidence as published in peer-reviewed, scientific literature from the National Library of Medicine.

"The most comprehensive review to date of studies examining the relationship between childhood witnessing of animal cruelty and negative emotionality and behavior is Gullone's 2012 review on the role of exposure to domestic violence, animal cruelty, and media violence in the commission of subsequent animal cruelty.

Animal and child welfare experts argue that government-sanctioned exposure of children to brutal violence may be a form of psychological violence against youth (Gullone and Plant 2014; Tedeschi 2014). Hence, if governments choose to condone, be complicit in, or ignore this violence exposure, despite having knowledge of the dire psychological and social consequences for youth exposed to this cruelty, it can be argued that their actions (or inaction) constitute a violation of basic human rights." - National Library of Medicine"

The whole article:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7683760/>

Under the guise of culture, rodeos use docile, sentient farm animals who must be provoked into acting "wild" otherwise it would not be considered entertaining.

Watch any standard rodeo video, and you will see terrified animals being chased, roped, wrestled, hog-tied, wrangled, their bodies slammed to the ground.

Horses, steers, calves, and bulls would much rather be left alone to lounge in the hay. But in order to get them to run, buck, spin, jump, and act "rank, wild, cantankerous," certain man-made instruments must be employed.

California has already made it clear how it feels about circuses, and rodeos are no different. Circuses take wild animals and make them tame. Rodeos take tame animals and make them wild. Both industries accomplish these feats with instruments made to dominate and control; and to make animals behave in manners which are unnatural or exaggerated.

Such behaviors places rodeo animals at grave risk for injury and death. For example, in Sept 2022 in Virginia, a bull was killed at a Professional Bull Riders event when he came crashing down on his hind legs, and broke one of them. <https://youtu.be/xQ9FV8L126k>

Many humans have been injured or killed in rodeos as well. A bull rider was killed in Fresno, CA in 2021:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-09-01/bull-rider-dies-fresno-competition>

Terrified bulls are also desperate to escape. In May 2022, this happened in Redding, CA:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sacramento/news/video-escaped-bull-jumps-into-rodeo-stands-redding/>

We want to make it abundantly clear, that this is NOT an attack on culture. This ordinance is taking a long-overdue stand against animal cruelty.

This ordinance is also NOT an attack on the trail riding of horses. Pleasure riding horses on trails is not even remotely related to rodeos. When trail riding, the rider does not want the horse to buck or jump. Such behaviors would be considered undesirable.

Thank you for your time and we are looking forward to finalizing this ordinance.

Respectfully,

Heather Wilson
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