Honorable Members:

Pursuant to your request, this Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. The draft ordinance adds a new Section 53.39.2 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit at rodeos the use of any practice, technique, or device that will or is likely to cause an animal physical injury, torment, or suffering. Prohibited devices include electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tie-downs, sharpened or fixed spurs or rowels, and lariats or lassos. Consistent with California Penal Code Section 596.7(e), the draft ordinance allows for the limited use of electric prods and similar devices once an animal is in a holding chute and only if necessary to protect rodeo participants or spectators. The draft ordinance also explicitly requires compliance with Penal Code Section 596.7 Subdivisions (b) through (d) relating to the availability of a licensed veterinarian and a conveyance for injured animals at every rodeo. Finally, the draft ordinance amends Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal code to add a definition for “rodeo” because no such definition currently exists.
Council Rule 38 Referral

A copy of the draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Department of Animal Services with a request that all comments, if any, be presented directly to the City Council when this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Steve Houchin at (213) 978-8130. He or another member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By

DAVID MICHAELSON
Chief Assistant City Attorney