

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles has a long history of allowing event promoters to use its streets, facilities and parks, such as the Spring Street Steps or Pershing Square, for entertainment events throughout the year. These special events are open to the public, conducted on the public right of way or primarily outdoors on property open to the public, and may require special municipal services including but not limited to street closures, the provision of barricades, stages, or special electrical services. Promoters of these special events hire subcontractors to provide audiovisual rigging services for the temporary installation or operation of portable mechanical rigging and static rigging for the overhead suspension of portable audiovisual equipment, including audio, video, lighting, backdrops and, in some instances, scenery.

Industry practice in many cities across the United States is moving toward requiring a person acting as an audiovisual rigger to hold a valid rigging certification from the Entertainment Technician Certification Program ("ETCP") operated by the Entertainment Services and Technology Association ("ESTA"). The ETCP is an industry-wide program created by ESTA which brings together industry organizations, businesses and individuals to provide rigorous assessments of professional technicians, and focuses on disciplines that directly affect the health and safety of crews, performers, and audiences and certifies technicians in the following areas: Arena Riggers, Theatre Riggers, Entertainment Electricians, and Portable Power Distribution Technicians.

Under the rules set out by the ETCP, in order for audiovisual riggers to obtain their valid rigging certificate, they must be experienced riggers, and they must complete ETCP's rigging certification exams. The intent of the rigging examinations is to evaluate and validate the knowledge and skill base of the upper third of riggers working in the entertainment industry. These certifications would ensure that any work done by the riggers would provide for the health and safety of technicians, performers and audiences, and require compliance with OSHA and other laws. 79% of employers encourage their audiovisual riggers to obtain ETCP credentials, which gives a certified rigger a competitive advantage in their field.

In order to provide for the safety of workers and participants at these permitted outdoor special events in the City of Los Angeles, the City should adopt this industry practice by requiring subcontracted audiovisual riggers to be certified by the ETCP as experts in their respective fields.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance that would require Portable Audiovisual Rigging work, including work done by Arena Riggers, Theatre Riggers, Entertainment Electricians, and Portable Power Distribution Technicians, associated with a Special Event Permit issued by the Department of Public Works to be performed only by workers with a valid rigger's certification issued by the Entertainment Technician Certificate Program.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Department of Recreation and Parks to adopt a policy consistent with this motion for events taking place on the City's park property.

PRESENTED BY:   
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

  
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