

Western Sports Industry Coalition

c/o Dave Duquette, Western Justice, P.O. Box 454, Hermiston, OR 97838
Ph. (541) 571-7588 dave@westernjustice.info

December 5, 2022

Holly L. Wolcott
City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
City Hall – Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2022 DEC -7 PM 2:16
CITY CLERK
BY _____

RE: CF 20-1575 (Rodeo Events) Opposition and Legal Issues

Dear Ms. Wolcott:

On behalf of the Western Sports Industry Coalition, a group of 30 organizations representing rodeo professionals, the world's leading bull riding organization, equestrians, sports organizations, and cultural institutions¹, we want to respectfully voice our opposition to the proposed ordinance that will effectively ban the events that our Coalition members proudly participate in – both in the City of Los Angeles and elsewhere. The ordinance, as currently drafted, will impose unnecessary and ill-conceived measures on events that already have extensive animal welfare policies, protections, and legal requirements imposed by the State. Such an ordinance would effectively ban these events altogether in the City of Los Angeles. Such an ordinance would have a devastating and negative cultural and economic impact on the City. Our Coalition has previously submitted materials to the Council, and now re-submits its materials so that the Council may add again add them to the administrative record. We implore the Council not to codify into this law the myths and inaccurate information that the draft ordinance language appears to perpetuate by individuals and organizations that do not understand rodeo and equestrian events and their cultural significance or the relationship that participants have with their animals.

In addition to those materials, the ordinance as drafted presents legal issues, including those that implicate the California and United States Constitutions. So as to avoid these and other legal challenges (including additional as yet unknown challenges that may come with modified or amended ordinance language), we bring these legal issues to your attention. Note, this provides notice of legal challenges that may be applicable to the ordinance if it utilizes some or all of the draft language. Additional legal arguments and challenges may be warranted based on additional or revised language – which the Coalition has not been privy to.

¹ This submission is made on behalf of the Western Sports Industry Coalition, its member organizations, and the individual members in each of these organizations (list attached hereto).

I. The Ordinance Violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and limits the ability of a state or municipality to impinge on this fundamental right.² The events and performances that the Coalition member organizations (and the individual members of those organizations) participate in constitute “expressive activity” within the meaning of the First Amendment. The First Amendment protects a wide range of performances, exhibitions, and other expressive activity and the Supreme Court of the United States has recognized as such. The exposition of history, culture, and symbolic traditions, athletic ability, performance, technique, and style are all parts of the Coalition’s activities that would be subject to the rodeo ordinance and are communicative and expressive acts entitled to First Amendment protections. The Coalition has proposed amendments to the ordinance that could regulate animal welfare, and also preserve the ability to conduct rodeo and equestrian events. We urge the Council to consider this information and avoid legal challenges.

II. The Ordinance Violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution

Equal Protection refers to the idea that a governmental body may not deny people equal protection of its laws. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires states (including a local government body like the L.A. City Council) to treat an individual in the same manner as others in similar conditions and circumstances. The Ordinance as enacted may violate the Fourteenth Amendment, should it target certain groups of individuals, while exempting others. This is of great concern to the Coalition and may provide the basis for an additional legal challenge. Any attempt to favor one group, while prohibiting another group from participating in these events is of great concern.

III. The Ordinance is Unconstitutionally Vague Would Violate Due Process

The draft ordinance is also legally problematic and potentially unconstitutional in its current form because certain portions of the ordinance are vague and therefore violate the right to due process afforded by the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments. The “void for vagueness” doctrine dictates that unduly vague laws, whether civil or criminal, violate due process and cannot be enforced.

The following draft language is problematic and potentially unconstitutional as it does not provide fair notice of what activities are considered to be unlawful, and has the effect of chilling participation for fear of liability:

- “rodeo related events”

² Similarly, the Article I, Section 2 of the California Constitution afford the right of free speech and proscribes that a law may not restrain or abridge liberty of speech or press. Ca. Constitution art I § 2. Accordingly, the ordinance language may give rise to a legal challenge pursuant to the California Constitution.

- Portion of rodeo definition including “other similar event or activity”
- “torment” and “suffering”
- “participate in a rodeo”
- “fixed” and “sharpened” spurs/rowels “wire tie downs”

As currently drafted, all of this language is vague, undefined, capable of conflicting meaning, and provides no notice to citizens as to what behavior is considered to be illegal under the ordinance. Accordingly, it is ripe for a constitutional challenge.

IV. The Ordinance Violates California Constitution Article 11, Section 7: Conflict Preemption Under State Law

Section 596.7 of the California Penal Code, which is applicable statewide, defines rodeo and puts certain requirements and limitations on rodeo exhibition including requirements for an attending or on-call veterinarian, on demand availability of a conveyance to transport injured animals, and limitations on the use of an electric prod or similar device. Some of what the Council is attempting to make unlawful is already addressed by the statewide rodeo law. The California Constitution states: “[a] county or city may make and enforce within its limits all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations *not in conflict with general laws.*” Cal. Const., art. XI, § 7 The California Supreme Court has held that state law is “in conflict with” or preempts local law if the local law “duplicates, contradicts, or enters an area fully occupied by general law, either expressly or by legislative implication” and is therefore void. *Sherwin-Williams Co. v. City of Los Angeles*, 4 Cal. 4th 893, 897 (1993); *Candid Enterprises, Inc. v. Grossmont Union High School Dist.*, 39 Cal. 3d 878, 885 (1985).

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V. Action Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983

If the ordinance enacted is substantially the same as its draft, the Coalition and its members may have a valid action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 because local officials have violated their civil rights under the United States Constitution. Because the ordinance may violate the Coalition and its members rights pursuant to the First, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, a 1983 claim may exist because they would have been denied rights that are secured by the U.S. Constitution.

Accordingly, should the ordinance be enacted with the current draft language, the Council should be aware of the important constitutional rights that will be compromised, and other potential legal challenges that may exist upon amendments or modifications to the ordinance language. The

Coalition therefore urges the Council to consider the amendments to the draft ordinance submitted by the Coalition to avoid legal ramifications and challenges.

Very truly yours,

Western Sports Industry Coalition

Enclosures

Western Sports Industry Coalition Members

Professional Bull Riders Association
Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
Western Justice Legislative Fund
Federacion Mexicana de Charrerria
Indian National Finals Rodeo
Fiesta Stock Horse Show and Rodeo
Western States Ranch Rodeo Association
Red Bluff Round-up Association
California Rodeo Salinas
Protect The Harvest
Clovis Rodeo
Santa Maria Elks Rodeo and Parade
National High School Rodeo Association
Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Racing Association
CA Circuit Finals Rodeo
Bill Pickett Rodeo
Compton Cowboys
Pcha – Pro charro Association
Big Hat Rodeo
American Bucking Bull Inc.
Shawnee Youth Rodeo
American Quarter Horse Association
Military Rodeo Cowboys Association
Crown Seven
National Stock Horse Association
International Professional Rodeo Association
Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association
United States Team Roping Championships
National Team Roping
Flying U Rodeo
World Championship Rodeo Alliance
Midwest Rodeo Entries
Hooked Up Enterprises

Short Go
Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity
Pro Fantasy Rodeo
Western & English Sales Association
Priefert
Ranahan Custom Designs
American Rope Horse Futurity Association
Ariat World Series of Team Roping
Remount
The Cowboy Store
Fast Back
Resistol
Challenge Of Champions Tour
American Hat Company, INC
Stetson
Charlie 1 Horse Hat
Cactus Gear
Cactus Ropes
Cactus Saddlery
Woman's Rodeo World Championships
Murieta Equestrian Center
Woman's Professional Rodeo Association

WESTERN SPORTS INDUSTRY COALITION
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT ORDINANCE REGARDING RODEO EVENTS

PROBLEMATIC ORDINANCE LANGUAGE	SOLUTION
PREAMBLE: First preliminary clause seeks prohibition of “harmful practices, techniques...at rodeo and rodeo-related events”	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Eliminates language regarding “harmful practices, techniques” to maintain objectivity. Terms “practices” and “techniques” and “rodeo-related events” are vague/undefined.
PREAMBLE: Deems rodeo equipment used for humane treatment of animals and safety for humans as “inhumane implements...which inflict injury, pain, and suffering”	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Language entirely subjective, inflammatory, and untruthful. Contradicts veterinary experts whose very profession is based on humane care for animals. Keep clause declaring City’s “compelling interest in ensuring the safety of welfare of animals” and specify the animals’ participation in rodeo events.
SECTION 1: Rodeo definition is poorly defined and contradicts existing State Law, California Penal Code 596.7	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Change language to align with the CA Penal Code § 596.7 (2018) definition of rodeo event to avoid legal conflicts.
SECTION 1: No definition of sharpened spur rowels or fixed spur rowels – need clarity for compliance and enforcement	<i>Amend.</i> Insert clear, specific definitions for both sharpened spur rowels and fixed spur rowels.
SECTION 2: Prohibits “...any chemical, mechanical, electrical, or manual device that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering”	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Clarify by banning “...a prohibited device on an animal to induce or encourage it to perform, that will cause, or is likely to cause...” Add prohibition on operating “...a rodeo in which a prohibited device is used in this manner.”
SECTION 2: Bans flank or bucking straps	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Flank and bucking straps are made of thick rope or leather, are tied around the mid-section of the animal, and do not harm animals in any way.
SECTION 2: Bans wire tie downs	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Specify a ban of bare wire tie-downs. Language must not outlaw clasps or buckles on other bull riding or equestrian equipment.
SECTION 2: Bans fixed spurs or rowels	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Prohibit sharpened spur rowels and fixed spur rowels as defined in proposed language for Section 1.
SECTION 2: Bans lariats or lassos	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Lariats and lassos are used to aid an injured animal to safety in herd. This skill is practiced and used in rodeo events.
SECTION 2: Bans electric prods; allows only in holding chute	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Allow prods to be used only in limited circumstances in holding pens, lead-up alleys, and holding chute, to align with CA Penal Code § 596.7. Establish electric prod current maximum of 4.0 milliamps.
SECTION 2: Current language applies against “any person” who conducts, operates, or participates in a rodeo “at which any animal is induced or encouraged to perform through the use of any practice or technique . . .”	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Language should be clarified to be enforceable against the person using the prohibited tool – not other people merely present at, or working at, the event.

REDLINE - - Western Justice Proposed Amendments to Draft Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to add a definition for a "rodeo" and adding LAMC Section 53.39.2 to prohibit the use of harmful practices, techniques, and certain devices at rodeos or rodeo-related events.

~~WHEREAS, rodeos often use a number of inhumane implements, including electric prods, flank straps, and spurs to encourage aggressive behavior in animals to produce an entertainment product and which inflict injury, pain, and suffering;~~

~~WHEREAS, the City has a compelling interest in ensuring the safety and welfare of animals by restricting the use of harmful practices, techniques, and devices at rodeos; and participating in rodeo;~~

~~WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Municipal Code does not currently define a rodeo or rodeo-related event.~~

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The following definition is added to Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code in proper alphabetical order to read as follows:

"Rodeo," as referred to in California Penal Code 596.7, means a performance featuring competition between persons that includes three or more of the following events: bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, or team roping. shall mean an exhibition, performance, or competition that includes any of the following: bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping, barrel racing, chuck wagon races, or other similar event or activity.

"Sharpened spur rowels" means spur rowels that are designed to cut or pierce.

"Fixed spur rowels" means spur rowels that are not capable of any turning or rotating.

Sec. 2. Section 53.39.2 is added to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

SEC. 53.39.2. RODEOS. PROHIBITED PRACTICES, TECHNIQUES, AND DEVICES.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any participant in a rodeo to use a prohibited device on an animal to induce or encourage it to perform, that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering, or to conduct or operate a rodeo in which a prohibited device is used in this manner. Prohibited devices shall include electric prods or shocking devices, bare wire tie-downs, and sharpened or fixed spur rowels. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct or, operate a r, or participate in a Rodeo at which any animal is induced or encouraged to perform through the use of any practice or technique, or any chemical, mechanical, electrical, manual prohibited device, or any participant in rodeo to use a prohibited device on an animal to induce or encourage it to perform, that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering, or other similar device or implement, that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering. Prohibited devices shall include, but are not limited to, electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking straps, wire tie-downs, sharpened and sharpened or fixed spurs rowels, and lariats or lassos. Pursuant to Penal Code Section 596.7(e), in the limited circumstance when necessary to protect an animal, participant, or spectator, an electric prod or similar device may be employed in the holding pens, lead up alleys, or holding chute provided it has a maximum of 4.0 milliamps. however, in the limited circumstance when necessary to protect a participant or spectator, an electric prod or similar device may be employed, but only from the time

REDLINE - - Western Justice Proposed Amendments to Draft Ordinance

~~the animal enters the performance holding chute until the conclusion of the performance, competition or exhibition of the animal, which is the time period when the animal's potential for dangerous human interaction is most likely.~~

~~(b) Any person conducting or operating a Rodeo shall comply with the requirements of California Penal Code Section 596.7(b) through (de) relating to the presence of a licensed veterinarian, and availability of a conveyance for injured animals. (b) Any person conducting or operating a Rodeo shall comply with the requirements of California Penal Code Section 596.7(b) through (e) relating to the presence of a licensed veterinarian, availability of a conveyance for injured animals, and use of an electric prod or similar device to protect the participants or spectators of a Rodeo.~~

(c) No person shall conduct or operate a Rodeo without first obtaining a permit from the Department as required by Section 53.50.

(d) If any subsection, subdivision, clause, sentence, phrase, or portion of this section is held unconstitutional or invalid or unenforceable by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining subsections, subdivisions, clauses, sentences, phrases, or portions of this section shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Section are severable.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

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FICTION VS. FACT:

Debunking Myths and Falsehoods About Rodeo in the 1974 Publication, *Special Report on Rodeo*

FICTION: "Flank straps and spurs drive into horse's flesh to make horses buck."	FACT: Flank straps merely encourage an animal to buck. Rodeo animals are bred to buck. Furthermore, flank straps are cinched around the waist of the animal and fit like a belt or harness. The animal's skin or flesh is not harmed in any way. Horse flank straps must be covered in fleece or neoprene. Bull flanks are made of soft cotton rope.
FICTION: "This [flank] strap is, at least, a severe annoyance to the horse, applying pressure to sensitive lumbar nerves, the ingroinal canal area, and, on fairly frequent occasions, it involves the prepuce of the male animal."	FACT: The flank strap is placed around the animal's waist and does not touch the genital or groin area. Horse flank straps must be covered in fleece or neoprene. Bull flanks are made of soft cotton rope. Flank straps fit around the waist, much like a belt on a person. When a horse is in the chute, the flank strap is loose. As the horse leaves the chute it is tightened to approximately the same tightness as a snug belt or a pair of shoelaces on a basketball or running shoe.
FICTION: "Invariably, the horse stops bucking the second that the pickup rider releases the bucking strap."	FACT: Some horses will still buck even when a flank strap malfunctions and falls off before the eight seconds are up or in other cases continue to buck after the flank strap is released.

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	Most bucking horses do indeed stop bucking when the flank strap is released because, just as it's a cue to buck, it is also a cue to stop when it is released.
FICTION: "Horses come out of the bucking chutes because: a. The pressure of the flank strap. b. The spurring of the cowboy"	FACT: Horses come out of the bucking chutes because they have a natural instinct to move to open space. The flank strap is used to encourage the bucking trait that is already bred into rodeo animals, and spurs are used for balance and to signal the animal. Neither are used to make horses come out of the bucking chutes. In fact, it is against the rule for the athlete to use the spurs on the horse before leaving the bucking chute.
FICTION: "It is important to mention that a critical observer who is familiar with the natural bucking process of a horse, will quickly detect the rather unnatural bucking of a horse with a flank strap applied."	FACT: Again, flank straps simply encourage a trait that is already bred into rodeo broncs and bulls. To call it "unnatural" is to ignore a bronc or bull's natural instincts.
FICTION: "Use of the flank strap and the spurs often cause horses to 'buck blind' and run into the arena fencing/gates."	FACT: Flank straps do not cause horses to run into arena fencing/gates. The horses buck for approximately 8 seconds, after which they stop. You can't make an animal buck if it doesn't want to do it. The flank strap slows the animal down and helps it maintain control during the contest. It is exactly opposite of the allegation.
FICTION: "The 'hot shot' will, at times, 'draw blood' and will always produce skin damage"	FACT: Low-amp electric prods are a humane way to move animals when their safety or the safety of humans is at risk. The sensation the animal feels is similar to what we feel with static

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	electricity. Electric prods do not hurt the animals, do not damage their skin in any way and never draw blood.
FICTION: “Lesions produced by the raking of spurs over the neck, shoulder, and costal areas of bucking horses are rarely treated.”	FACT: Sharp spurs are not permitted in PBR, PRCA, and Charro events, so there are no lesions caused by spurs on bucking horses. In the rare case a horse may be injured in any way, the owner is obligated to seek care with a veterinarian, and the animals are treated promptly.
FICTION: “There is little or no humane supervision at most rodeos.”	FACT: There must be an officially sanctioned veterinarian present at all organized rodeo events in the event of a medical issue. Additionally, all animal owners have a personal stake in the health, safety, and welfare of their animal, and practice humane supervision at all times.
FICTION: “The R.C.A. has stated and written there is less than 1% injury to animals in all of rodeo. They, of course, are talking about visible injuries that the spectator might, momentarily at least, have observed from the stands and worried about.”	FACT: There is in fact a remarkably low rate of injury to all animals in rodeo events – it is currently a rate of 0.00046 – just under 5 one-hundredths of one percent. This includes all injuries, not merely “visible” injuries.
FICTION: “It is the conclusion of this study that any animal roped even once suffers injury from the scientific point of view. The injury is not often externally visible, but an injury occurs regardless.”	FACT: Statistics do not support the idea that once an animal is roped it is injured.
FICTION: “There is little ‘respect for life’ displayed when the stock is loaded and unloaded.”	FACT: Rodeo people are animal lovers. Rodeo animals are treasured by their owners and are treated humanely.

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	at all times. The owners of these prized animals have the utmost respect for their lives and never want to see any animals harmed in any way.
FICTION: “The calf roping or busting event is present in all rodeo performances.”	FACT: Tie Down roping is present at most PRCA events, some standalone Bronc or Bull riding events do not have roping events. Steer roping, or what they are calling “Busting” does not occur at any California events.

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OTHER FALSE, MIDLEADING, AND OUT-OF-DATE STATEMENTS RELEASED BY ANIMAL ACTIVISTS

MISLEADING STATEMENT: “August 19, 2010: A horse died of cardiac arrest at the Canby [Oregon] Rodeo.”

IN REALITY: This statement is misleading and is provided out of context. This horse happened to be at the Canby Rodeo – the rodeo did not cause cardiac arrest. Over the course of their life, some horses die of cardiac arrest, and do so wherever they might be.

FALSE STATEMENT: “June 2, 1998/Connecticut: During a ‘dash for cash’ contest at a rodeo fundraiser for the Connecticut Make-A-Wish Foundation, a steer was tackled and thrown to the ground. His neck was broken. The steer died, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation later announced it would no longer be associated with rodeos.”

IN REALITY: This is incorrect and offensive. Make-A-Wish Foundation continues to be associated with rodeos, working in partnership with rodeo and PBR events. As recently as 2019, PBR hosted Make-A-Wish kid Kye Davis at the World Finals in Las Vegas. His dream was to be a cowboy and PBR made him one. He flew in from Houston and walked down the famous Blue Carpet with bull riding star Chase Outlaw. Kye would pass away two months later.

MISLEADING STATEMENT: PETA, in their publication *Rodeo: Cruelty for a Buck*, describes the following incident:

“July 30, 2011/Snyder, Texas: A horse who was at the Scurry County Rodeo died and later tested positive for rabies.”

IN REALITY: Blaming the Scurry County Rodeo for a disease that was most likely contracted elsewhere is completely irresponsible. Mammals contract rabies all the time. Throughout the nation’s horse population, some horses contract rabies.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS: PETA, in their publication *Rodeo: Cruelty for a Buck*, also lists numerous incidents of horses being euthanized after sustaining injuries. These incidents are listed without context, and without acknowledging that animals are euthanized for humane purposes to reduce animal suffering.

Also, the number of horse deaths each year as listed by PETA is extremely small.

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PETA cites 3 horse deaths in 2018, 8 in 2017, 8 in 2016, 8 in 2015, 3 in 2014, 7 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 4 in 2011, 4 in 2010, 5 in 2009, 3 in 2008, 2 in 2007, 2 in 2006, 6 in 2005, 14 in 2004, 3 in 2003, 4 in 2002, 7 in 2001, 6 in 2000, 9 in 1999, 2 in 1998, 2 in 1997, 4 in 1996, 2 in 1995.

IN REALITY: PETA is sensationalizing the very rare occurrence of animal injuries at rodeos. Bulls and horses, like all living creatures, have a life that is not infinite and endless. Bulls and horses die of injuries that occur on the farm, on the range, and at many other places for many reasons. There are tens of thousands of rodeo starts each year by bulls and horses, with all sanctioned events requiring on-site veterinarians who intervene if any animal is at risk.

Finally, PETA is citing the incredibly small number of horses euthanized as a result of injuries as a reason to ban rodeo. However, PETA itself has an incredibly high euthanasia rate of animals in its care, according to multiple annual reports submitted to the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS).

According to PETA's [2018 report](#) submitted to the VDACS, of the 2,512 animals that were in its custody, 1,798 of them were euthanized (72%). [In 2019](#), the VDACS found PETA shelters operating in Norfolk, VA alone, had a euthanasia rate for dogs that was **more than thirteen times** the average rate for private shelters. PETA's euthanasia rate for cats was **more than eleven times** the average rate for private shelters.

OUT-OF-DATE INFORMATION: The publication *Special Report on Rodeo*, published in 1974 and with research conducted in the summers of 1971 and 1972, contains information that is 49 years old, and does not take into account modern rodeo practices and regulations.

CONCLUSION: All of the information presented in the out-of-date and misleading statements are about stopping horse and bull riding. They are not about banning devices that harm animals in rodeo, which is the intention of the ordinance.

Western Sports Industry Coalition

To: Los Angeles City Councilmembers
From: Western Sports Industry Coalition
Re: Call to Action: Save Western Sports in Los Angeles
Date: March 15, 2022

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BY _____
TAMIN

EVENT OVERVIEW

Last month, on February 22, The Western Sports Industry Coalition – a diverse group of 59 Western industry leaders and organizations including PBR (Professional Bull Riders), Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, National Buffalo Soldiers, California Circuit Finals Pro-Rodeo (which represents 40 pro rodeos in California), Compton Cowboys, California Charro Association, and PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) – hosted a *Call to Action: Save Western Sports in Los Angeles* at Crypto.com Arena to mobilize support for defeating the harmful and unnecessary ordinance that would be ban bull riding, rodeo and equestrian sports in Los Angeles.

Hundreds of attendees turned out, in addition to numerous speakers from the Charro, Black cowboys, veterinarian, entertainment, and western sports communities to voice their opposition to the unnecessary and harmful proposed ordinance, to correct misinformation about animal welfare in western sports, and to share the benefits of these sports to the local community.

600 people attended the event, including representatives from:

- Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo (BPIR)
- California Circuit Finals Pro-Rodeo
- Compton Cowboys
- Federacion Mexicana de Charrería, California (FMCH-CA)
- Members of the Hollywood Community
- National Buffalo Soldiers
- National Charro Associations
- Norco Mounted Posse Rodeo
- Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association (PCHA)
- Professional Bull Riders (PBR)
- Professional Charro Association
- Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA)
- Santa Monica Mounted Posse

Speakers at the event included the following individuals:

- James T. Pickens (“Grey’s Anatomy,” “Yellowstone”)

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- Reginald Dorsey ("21 Jump Street," "Return to Lonesome Dove")
- Forrie J. Smith ("Yellowstone")
- Glynn Turman ("Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "Cooley High," "Peyton Place," "The Wire")
- Paola Pimienta (National Female Ambassador of the Charros)
- Juan Luis Quesada (President, FMCH-CA)
- Dale Gibson – Hollywood Stuntman and President of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee
- Dave Duquette – Western Justice
- Dr. Douglas Corey – Veterinarian & Chair of the PRCA Livestock Welfare Committee
- Sean Gleason – Commissioner & CEO, PBR
- Steve Knowles – Director of Rodeo Administration, PRCA
- Tim Baldwin – California Rodeo Salinas

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Within a week of the *Call to Action* taking place, 287 new comments were submitted to the Council File on the proposed ordinance expressing opposition to proposed ban on rodeo. As of sending this recap note, there are 3,318 comments opposed to the ban on rodeo and only 1,457 total comment numbers in favor of it.

Every person who commented would be directly impacted by the ordinance, as they either live in Los Angeles or attended PBR's event at Crypto.com Arena. Commenters respectfully voiced their opposition to the ordinance.

Moreover, the Western Sports Industry Coalition's petition, which has been gathering support for only a over a year, has 30,069 signatures. This is compared to Last Chance for Animals' (LCA) petition, which has 24,313 and has been active for three years.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Media coverage of the event Coverage included KTTV-TV (Fox 11 LA), KNBC-TV (NBC 4 LA), KNX News Radio, Spectrum News 1, Univision, KVEA-TV (Telemundo), and The *Washington Times*, and City News Service.

Spectrum News 1: <https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/politics/2022/02/17/la-city-council-to-vote-soon-on-ban-of-devices-used-in-rodeos>

Pepe Aguilar interview on Univision: <https://www.univision.com/shows/el-gordo-y-la-flaca/gente-ignorante-la-familia-aguilar-en-contra-de-la-posible-prohibicion-de-animales-en-los-shows-de-los-angeles-video>

Washington Times: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/feb/21/rodeo-industry-bucks-los-angeles-city-council-bid/>

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City News Service via KNBC-TV: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/last-roundup-rodeo-coming-to-los-angeles-amid-possible-ban/2831744/>

Los Angeles Magazine: <https://www.lamag.com/culturefiles/inside-l-a-s-last-rodeo-cowboys-take-on-the-city-council/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Western Sports Industry Coalition has also received support and heard opposition to the proposed ordinance from western sports fans across social media.

Pepe Aguilar, equestrian, and 4-time GRAMMY and 5-time Latin GRAMMY Award-winning singer-songwriter, who has held shows at Staples Center for half a decade now, posted on TikTok with a short video expressing his opposition to the proposed ordinance. If this ordinance passes, all of the rodeo elements on his show would be banned from the city of Los Angeles.

<https://vm.tiktok.com/TTPdAHRFUL/>

CONCLUSION

The Western Sports Industry Coalition will continue to educate, inform, and advocate on behalf of both participants and enthusiasts of western sports who would lose their hobbies, their leisure activities, and their livelihoods if this ordinance were to pass.

The ordinance, if passed, would ban rodeo in the City of Los Angeles and contains false and misleading representations of how rodeo equipment is used to ensure safety for both human and animal athletes. Additionally, the draft ordinance shows a fundamental misunderstanding of how equipment is used in various forms of rodeo, including both bull riding, charro and equestrian rodeo.

Please contact Coalition representatives for additional information about this ill-informed, harmful ordinance that would decimate western sports in Los Angeles.