

Communication from Public

Name: Lauren I

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 07:28 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeo is an American tradition. We value the livestock as we value the cowboys and cowgirls who participate. Rules have been implemented to help protect the animals. People who don't understand the animals keep deciding what hurts them. Your perception doesn't equal reality. Preserve rodeo in LA.

Communication from Public

Name: Bethany Zill

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 07:39 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Rodeo is not only a sport — it's a living reflection of Western heritage and rural values that have shaped America for generations. Banning rodeos in Los Angeles would not protect animals; it would erase a vital cultural tradition and disconnect urban communities from the agricultural roots that feed and sustain them. Rodeos operate under some of the strictest animal welfare standards in any competitive event, with licensed veterinarians on site and nationally enforced humane rules. The council shouldn't legislate from misinformation. Preserving rodeo means preserving a way of life — one built on respect, responsibility, and resilience. Los Angeles can lead not by banning tradition, but by showing how urban and rural America can coexist with mutual respect.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/07/2025 07:46 AM

Council File No: 20-1575

Comments for Public Posting: Letter in Opposition to the Los Angeles Rodeo Ban Ordinance To:
The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Ordinance Banning Specific Rodeo Activities (Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, and Riding Bucking Animals) Dear Council Members, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed ordinance banning key traditional rodeo activities, specifically steer wrestling, team roping, and riding bucking animals. While I respect the Council's stated intent to prevent animal cruelty, this ordinance represents an unnecessary, overreaching, and fundamentally misinformed prohibition of a time-honored cultural and sporting tradition. The ordinance seeks to eliminate practices based on the perception that they cause "potential physical injury, torment, or suffering to animals." This premise fails to acknowledge the following critical facts regarding modern, regulated rodeo: 1. High Standards of Animal Care and Welfare Modern rodeo associations and participants adhere to strict rules and guidelines specifically designed to ensure animal welfare. These include: Veterinary Oversight: Rodeos, particularly those sanctioned by major organizations, require veterinarians to be present and available to inspect and care for the animals. Inspections and Equipment Rules: The animals used in these events are highly valued athletes. Competitors have a vested interest in their health and vitality. Strict rules govern the use of equipment, ensuring devices like flank straps are properly padded and used only to encourage a natural bucking motion, not to cause pain. The Nature of the Animals: The animals used in bucking events are bred and trained for that specific purpose. They are athletic animals whose bucking is an inherited trait and a natural expression of their energy. 2. Disregard for Established Western Culture and Tradition Rodeo is more than just a sport; it is a vital part of American and, specifically, Western culture. The banned activities are rooted in historic ranching practices and demonstrate skills critical to livestock management. Ranching Roots: Events like team roping and steer wrestling evolved directly from necessary work on cattle ranches. Prohibiting these events is akin to prohibiting traditional cultural displays that teach and preserve this heritage. Inconsistency with Exemptions: The ordinance creates a glaring double standard by exempting American Indian/Native American

Rodeos and Mexican Charrería. If the activities themselves are deemed inherently cruel, the cruelty does not cease based on the cultural group performing the action. This selective ban undermines the purported ethical basis of the ordinance and unfairly targets one specific cultural expression while protecting others.

3. An Overly Broad and Punitive Measure Instead of enforcing existing, strong anti-cruelty laws or increasing veterinary oversight at events, this ordinance adopts an immediate and complete ban on practices fundamental to the sport. This is a punitive action that:

- Harms Local Economy: Rodeos and related events bring tourism, commerce, and revenue to the city and surrounding areas, benefiting local businesses.
- Displaces Competitors and Fans: It forces a vibrant community of athletes, trainers, stock contractors, and fans out of Los Angeles, severely limiting their cultural participation.

Call to Action I urge the Los Angeles City Council to reconsider this overreaching ordinance. Instead of an outright ban, I propose the Council focus on:

- Enforcing Existing Anti-Cruelty Laws with increased penalties for verified abuse.
- Mandating Veterinary Oversight at all commercial rodeo events.
- Adopting the Animal Welfare Rules of established rodeo organizations as minimum standards.

A ban on cultural practices is not a substitute for effective, informed animal welfare regulation. Please vote to repeal this ordinance and allow the safe, regulated, and traditional sport of rodeo to continue in Los Angeles.