

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Margaret L Strang  
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**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to strongly urge you to preserve and protect rodeo and western heritage events in Los Angeles. As the city continues to evolve and expand, it is critical that we do not lose sight of the history, culture, and agricultural foundation that helped build California and feed generations of families here and across the nation. Los Angeles has a rich ranching and agricultural legacy. One that predates freeways, skyscrapers, and concrete. Rodeo is not merely entertainment; it is a celebration of the hardworking men, women, and families who produce our food, steward our land, and pass on values of discipline, respect, courage, and community. These traditions reflect the roots of the American West and the diverse communities who helped shape it, including Hispanic, Native, Black, and immigrant ranching cultures. As policies move the city further away from agriculture, farming, ranching, and even safe, regulated rodeo events, we risk disconnecting residents from the very systems that sustain them. The farther we move from agriculture, the more we lose touch with where our food comes from and the people who ensure that Americans have access to safe, abundant food. That knowledge gap has already widened, and eliminating rodeo only accelerates it. Banning rodeo does not protect animals. It only amplifies misinformation and emboldens activist fear-based narratives rather than encouraging education, transparency, and responsible animal care. Rodeo athletes, both human and animal, are highly trained, well-cared-for, and treated with respect. This is not a sport of cruelty; it is a sport built on partnership, responsibility, and tradition. If we remove events that celebrate agricultural heritage, we do more than erase a community tradition. We erase a piece of culture, economy, and identity. We undermine youth involvement in agriculture, discourage future generations from pursuing careers in livestock and land stewardship, and trade living history for pavement and misconceptions. Rather than ban rodeo, Los Angeles should lead the nation in promoting education, responsible livestock handling, and cultural appreciation. Saving rodeo means preserving an essential piece of American heritage and ensuring future generations remain connected to agriculture and to the values that helped grow California into what it is today. I respectfully ask that you protect, support, and promote rodeo as a cultural, educational, and

community tradition. Not erase it. Thank you for your time and consideration.