

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sheli Wright

**Date Submitted:** 03/09/2026 10:47 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** **\*\*Why the Arena Matters\*\*** Imagine a young girl growing up where the land is wide, the mornings are cold, and work begins before the sun has finished rising. She is not yet strong, not yet confident, not yet certain of who she will become. She is simply curious, stubborn, and quietly observant. Now imagine she steps into a rodeo arena for the first time. From the outside, rodeo can look like chaos—dust, speed, animals, noise.... But to someone learning inside it, rodeo is actually a carefully layered teacher. It asks questions that few other environments ask of a young person, and it demands answers not through words, but through action. This is why rodeo can shape someone so deeply. ###  
**Responsibility Before Glory** A young rider quickly learns that success in rodeo begins long before the arena gate opens. Horses must be fed before school. Stalls must be cleaned when friends are relaxing. Saddles must be oiled, ropes checked, tack repaired. The horse cannot wait for motivation. It needs care every day. For a young girl, this creates a powerful shift in perspective. Her effort matters to something living and powerful that depends on her. Responsibility stops being an abstract lesson adults talk about—it becomes a daily practice. Over time, that responsibility builds quiet confidence. **Learning Partnership, Not Control** Many sports teach dominance over equipment: swing the bat harder, throw the ball faster, run quicker. Rodeo teaches something different. A horse is not a machine. It feels fear, excitement, stubbornness, and fatigue. A rider cannot simply force it to perform. She must learn communication—balance, timing, trust. A young girl begins to realize that strength is not always loud or forceful. Sometimes strength is calm hands, patience, and the ability to listen to another creature. This lesson often becomes the foundation for leadership later in life. **Failure as a Daily Instructor** Rodeo has very little patience for ego. Falls happen. Horses refuse. Barrels get knocked over. Runs fall apart in seconds. But the culture of rodeo rarely treats failure as humiliation. Instead, it treats it as part of the craft. Riders brush off the dirt, check their horse, and try again. For a young girl, this environment normalizes perseverance. She learns that mistakes do not define her. What matters is whether she climbs back into the saddle. Over years, this creates emotional resilience that many people struggle to build as adults. **Courage That Is Measured, Not**

Reckless Rodeo requires courage, but not the reckless kind. Every rider must assess constantly—how fast to push, when to pull back, how to read the animal beneath them. Courage becomes a thoughtful act rather than a blind leap. A young girl who grows up making those decisions develops an unusual kind of confidence. She knows how to stay calm under pressure because she has practiced doing exactly that in a fast, unpredictable arena. Identity Through Effort Perhaps the most important influence rodeo can have is how it defines success. In rodeo culture, respect is rarely earned through appearance or popularity. It comes from effort—how well someone cares for their horse, how hard they train, how they treat others at the arena. A young girl learns that her value is tied to dedication and integrity rather than approval from a crowd. That realization can be transformative. The Woman That Emerges Years later, that same girl may step into many different arenas—career challenges, leadership roles, difficult decisions. But the lessons remain with her. She understands responsibility because she practiced it before sunrise. She understands partnership because she learned to work with an animal far stronger than herself. She understands perseverance because she has fallen in the dirt and stood up again countless times. The powerful, confident woman people eventually see did not appear suddenly. She was shaped slowly—through dust, discipline, trust, and determination. That is the theory of why rodeo matters. Not because of the trophies. Not because of the spectacle. But because somewhere along the way, a young girl learns that strength is built one ride, one rodeo and one determined step forward at a time. ?? I urge your to consider that the skills of rodeo and what it teaches are as important today, as it was in the past and will be in the future. I am thankful for this teaching and hope my grandchildren will have the same opportunity.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Scott Johnson

**Date Submitted:** 03/09/2026 09:53 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** Stop allowing Rodeos. Rodeos abuse and torture animals that often results in injury or death. It is 2026 and humans have many ways to entertain themselves without watching terrified animals be abused for some kind of backward cowboy mentality. Rodeos are not much better than Bullfights.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** MARTHA WALTIEN

**Date Submitted:** 03/09/2026 01:50 PM

**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** How wonderful and kind and progressive it would be if you voted to ban the cruel industry of bull riding. Thank you.