

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

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**Council File No:** 20-1575

**Comments for Public Posting:** Letter from Western Sports Industry Council re: Council File 20-1575 (Rodeo Events)



Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 29, 2025

RE: Council File 20-1575 – Rodeo Events

Dear Councilmembers:

\$350 million in damage to City facilities.

\$24 million in emergency costs over ten days.

Billions upon billions of dollars in damage to property owned by residents and businesses, and billions more in recovery costs.

And, most heartbreakingly, twelve deaths with an incalculable cost to families, friends, and loved ones.

The cost of the Palisades Fire disaster in the City of Los Angeles is unprecedented in a city already familiar with earthquakes, floods, and fires. That's why today, the primary and immediate task of the Los Angeles City Council is to help address the challenges facing the communities it serves. From debris cleanup to utility restoration, to re-examining best practices for rebuilding and fire resiliency, these challenges are vast.

Additionally, Los Angeles has begun the search process for a new Fire Chief – one of the most critical positions in Los Angeles with respect to public safety.

And to underscore Los Angeles' challenges even further, its City Administrative Officer has warned us that the City of Los Angeles faces a \$1 billion deficit. \$1 billion with a "B."

The Western Sports Industry Coalition represents a broad coalition of bull riders, equestrian rodeo organizations, Black rodeo organizations, and Mexican-American charrería associations. Our fans, our human athletes, and our animal athletes have a direct connection to Los Angeles – either based here or performing at events held in Los Angeles.

Our Coalition members have all expressed our deepest sympathies to those affected by the wildfires, and we want to see Los Angeles get back on its feet, make the best choices in selecting a fire chief, and take immediate action to address the budget crisis threatening City facilities and services.

With these significant challenges before them, we know the City Council can make one other decision that is not only wise, but that is the right thing to do at this critical moment.

And that is to drop the proposed ban on rodeo events in the City of Los Angeles.

Rodeo events provide multiple benefits to Los Angeles.

First, rodeo events, including those held at major venues such as Crypto.com Arena, provide an economic boost to the City through travel and tourism and ticket sales. The sport of rodeo also directly and indirectly employs thousands of workers, from stagehands to groomers, trainers to feed suppliers, equipment providers to venues. Their livelihood depends on rodeo as a source of income – and it would be a horrible message to send that their livelihood no longer matters at a time when economic security is top of mind.

Second, the sport of rodeo has a positive impact on its fans, teaching them the values of hard work, perseverance, and athletic excellence. What's more, Black rodeo organizations and Mexican-American Charrería organizations go to great lengths to educate their fans about their community's significant role in the history of the American West – a subject that doesn't get the attention it deserves in our classrooms.

Third, the sport of rodeo treats its animal athletes extraordinarily well, with all our members treating our animals with care and affection every step of the way.

But inaccuracies and falsehoods previously led at least one member of the City Council to aggressively pursue a ban on rodeo events, claiming that the sport of rodeo utilized "instruments of torture," allegedly putting the safety of animals at risk.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association tracks and reports all injuries occurring in state to the California Veterinary Medical Board. The PRCA has a 99.86% safety rating with the livestock in rodeo. In 2024, PRCA recorded 27 injuries occurring during 19,216 exposures. This calculates to an injury rate of 0.14%, which includes all injuries ranging from a mere abrasion to more serious injuries.

Professional Bull Riders (PBR) reports a total of two bull injuries in more than 5,000 bull "outs" (the bull leaving the chute) – an injury rate of 0.04%.

And the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, the nation's premier Black rodeo organization, has had two injuries to horses over 39 years over the course of 850 total events. That's one injury every 19½ years!

For all rodeo participants, animals are treated like members of the family. They are well-fed, frequently groomed, and exercised, leading these animals to enjoy a long and fulfilling life.

We love our animals. Our livelihood depends on our animals. Statistics tell you and veterinarians agree: rodeo animals are not “abused” in any way, shape, or form. Our animals are cared for every bit as well as you care for your family pet at home.

The proposed rodeo ban is unwarranted, unnecessary, unfair, and threatens to upend the lives of many who have directly and indirectly felt the impact of the Southern California wildfires.

Our message to the Los Angeles City Council is simple:

Let’s focus on job #1.

Let’s drop the rodeo ban.

