



Public Comment Opposing the Proposed Rodeo Ordinance to be included in the public record

1 message

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To: "Clerk.CPS@lacity.org" <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

To the office of the city clerk, I am requesting that the following written public comment be recorded into the public record during the next city council meeting Under Non-Agenda public comment. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Sky D. Jung

Public Comment Opposing the Proposed Rodeo Ordinance

To: The Los Angeles City Council

Re: Opposition to Proposed Ordinance Adding Section 53.76 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed City of Los Angeles Rodeo Ordinance, which seeks to add Section 53.76 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code . While the text states the city has an interest in ensuring the safety and welfare of animals by restricting certain practices , this ordinance is highly redundant and built upon a foundation of misinformation propelled by extremist animal rights activist groups. Professional rodeo associations already enforce animal welfare standards that far exceed those proposed in this legislation. Passing this ordinance threatens to erase a vital piece of California's history while unfairly punishing an industry that deeply respects, protects, and invests in its animal athletes.

A Legacy Embedded in Los Angeles and California History

The history of rodeo is undeniably intertwined with the founding of Southern California. Long before Los Angeles was a sprawling metropolis, it was shaped by the Spanish and Mexican vaqueros who worked the vast ranchos of the 19th century. In fact, the world-renowned area of Beverly Hills was originally known by the Tongva people and early Spanish settlers as El Rodeo de las Aguas (The Gathering of the Waters).

Our city has a proud, century-long tradition of celebrating this western heritage:

In 1913, the Los Angeles Stadium hosted a massive professional rodeo that drew thousands of Angelenos, celebrating the city's frontier roots.

From 1945 to 1960, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum proudly hosted the Sheriff's Championship Rodeo, drawing crowds of over 100,000 spectators to watch legends like Roy Rogers.

To ban or heavily over-regulate rodeo is to turn our backs on the foundational cowboy culture and way of life that built the State of California.

The Reality of Animal Welfare in Professional Rodeo

The proposed ordinance seeks to regulate devices and practices by mandating that flank straps be sheepskin or neoprene-lined , ensuring no sharp objects are permitted in saddles or cinches , and restricting the use of electric prods in holding chutes . Furthermore, it mandates that spur rowels must roll freely , riders cannot use sharp spurs , and that animals must be inspected prior to the draw so that no sick or injured animal is used .

What activist organizations deliberately fail to mention is that these regulations are already strictly enforced industry standards. Professional organizations such as the PRCA, PBR, WPRA, NFR, NBHA, NTR, NCRA, IPRA, and CNFR enforce comprehensive and deeply ingrained animal welfare rules.

Elite Animal Athletes: Rough stock and rodeo horses are highly valued professional athletes. They are fed specialized diets, transported in custom climate-controlled trailers, and receive exceptional, routine veterinary care.

Superior Treatment: In nearly all cases, these rodeo animals receive far superior treatment, medical attention, and daily enrichment than the average non-professional domestic animal.

Strict Accountability: Any competitor found using unnecessary roughness, sharpened spurs, or unauthorized devices is immediately fined and disqualified by these professional bodies.

The Unethical Tactics of Extremist Activist Groups

All too often, policy decisions surrounding rodeo are driven by the emotional manipulation of extreme animal rights groups rather than objective facts. These groups routinely:

Promote Falsehoods: They falsely educate the public with myths and outright lies, often presenting highly edited, out-of-context footage to paint a deceptive picture of the sport.

Lack Industry Knowledge: Activists rarely educate themselves on the complex rules, rigorous safety policies, and the deep-seated ethics of the rodeo industry.

Exploit Emotion over Fact: They rely on sensationalism and unethical tactics to gain political support, completely ignoring the dedicated on-site veterinarians and expert stock contractors who dedicate their lives to animal care.

Conclusion

The proposed ordinance requiring special permits `` and imposing redundant regulations is not genuinely about protecting animals; it is a backdoor attempt by special interest groups to incrementally legislate the sport of rodeo out of Los Angeles. I urge the City Council to reject this ordinance, look past the manufactured outrage, and protect the western heritage and cowboy culture that is a fundamental piece of the American story.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sky D. Jung