

Western Sports Industry Coalition

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Ph. (541) 571-7588 dave@westernjustice.info

December 5, 2022

Holly L. Wolcott
City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
City Hall – Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CF 20-1575 (Rodeo Events) Opposition and Legal Issues

Dear Ms. Wolcott:

On behalf of the Western Sports Industry Coalition, a group of 30 organizations representing rodeo professionals, the world's leading bull riding organization, equestrians, sports organizations, and cultural institutions¹, we want to respectfully voice our opposition to the proposed ordinance that will effectively ban the events that our Coalition members proudly participate in – both in the City of Los Angeles and elsewhere. The ordinance, as currently drafted, will impose unnecessary and ill-conceived measures on events that already have extensive animal welfare policies, protections, and legal requirements imposed by the State. Such an ordinance would effectively ban these events altogether in the City of Los Angeles. Such an ordinance would have a devastating and negative cultural and economic impact on the City. Our Coalition has previously submitted materials to the Council, and now re-submits its materials so that the Council may add again add them to the administrative record. We implore the Council not to codify into this law the myths and inaccurate information that the draft ordinance language appears to perpetuate by individuals and organizations that do not understand rodeo and equestrian events and their cultural significance or the relationship that participants have with their animals.

In addition to those materials, the ordinance as drafted presents legal issues, including those that implicate the California and United States Constitutions. So as to avoid these and other legal challenges (including additional as yet unknown challenges that may come with modified or amended ordinance language), we bring these legal issues to your attention. Note, this provides notice of legal challenges that may be applicable to the ordinance if it utilizes some or all of the draft language. Additional legal arguments and challenges may be warranted based on additional or revised language – which the Coalition has not been privy to.

¹ This submission is made on behalf of the Western Sports Industry Coalition, its member organizations, and the individual members in each of these organizations (list attached hereto).

I. The Ordinance Violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and limits the ability of a state or municipality to impinge on this fundamental right.² The events and performances that the Coalition member organizations (and the individual members of those organizations) participate in constitute “expressive activity” within the meaning of the First Amendment. The First Amendment protects a wide range of performances, exhibitions, and other expressive activity and the Supreme Court of the United States has recognized as such. The exposition of history, culture, and symbolic traditions, athletic ability, performance, technique, and style are all parts of the Coalition’s activities that would be subject to the rodeo ordinance and are communicative and expressive acts entitled to First Amendment protections. The Coalition has proposed amendments to the ordinance that could regulate animal welfare, and also preserve the ability to conduct rodeo and equestrian events. We urge the Council to consider this information and avoid legal challenges.

II. The Ordinance Violates the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution

Equal Protection refers to the idea that a governmental body may not deny people equal protection of its laws. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires states (including a local government body like the L.A. City Council) to treat an individual in the same manner as others in similar conditions and circumstances. The Ordinance as enacted may violate the Fourteenth Amendment, should it target certain groups of individuals, while exempting others. This is of great concern to the Coalition and may provide the basis for an additional legal challenge. Any attempt to favor one group, while prohibiting another group from participating in these events is of great concern.

III. The Ordinance is Unconstitutionally Vague Would Violate Due Process

The draft ordinance is also legally problematic and potentially unconstitutional in its current form because certain portions of the ordinance are vague and therefore violate the right to due process afforded by the Fifth and Fourteenth amendments. The “void for vagueness” doctrine dictates that unduly vague laws, whether civil or criminal, violate due process and cannot be enforced.

The following draft language is problematic and potentially unconstitutional as it does not provide fair notice of what activities are considered to be unlawful, and has the effect of chilling participation for fear of liability:

- “rodeo related events”

² Similarly, the Article I, Section 2 of the California Constitution afford the right of free speech and proscribes that a law may not restrain or abridge liberty of speech or press. Ca. Constitution art I § 2. Accordingly, the ordinance language may give rise to a legal challenge pursuant to the California Constitution.

- Portion of rodeo definition including “other similar event or activity”
- “torment” and “suffering”
- “participate in a rodeo”
- “fixed” and “sharpened” spurs/rowels “wire tie downs”

As currently drafted, all of this language is vague, undefined, capable of conflicting meaning, and provides no notice to citizens as to what behavior is considered to be illegal under the ordinance. Accordingly, it is ripe for a constitutional challenge.

IV. The Ordinance Violates California Constitution Article 11, Section 7: Conflict Preemption Under State Law

Section 596.7 of the California Penal Code, which is applicable statewide, defines rodeo and puts certain requirements and limitations on rodeo exhibition including requirements for an attending or on-call veterinarian, on demand availability of a conveyance to transport injured animals, and limitations on the use of an electric prod or similar device. Some of what the Council is attempting to make unlawful is already addressed by the statewide rodeo law. The California Constitution states: “[a] county or city may make and enforce within its limits all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations *not in conflict with general laws.*” Cal. Const., art. XI, § 7 The California Supreme Court has held that state law is “in conflict with” or preempts local law if the local law “duplicates, contradicts, or enters an area fully occupied by general law, either expressly or by legislative implication” and is therefore void. *Sherwin-Williams Co. v. City of Los Angeles*, 4 Cal. 4th 893, 897 (1993); *Candid Enterprises, Inc. v. Grossmont Union High School Dist*, 39 Cal. 3d 878, 885 (1985).

Section 596.7 of the California Penal Code, which is applicable statewide, defines rodeo and puts certain requirements and limitations on rodeo exhibition including requirements for an attending or on-call veterinarian, on demand availability of a conveyance to transport injured animals, and limitations on the use of an electric prod or similar device. Some of what the Council is attempting to make unlawful is already addressed by the statewide rodeo law and, as such, may be unlawful on preemption grounds. We therefore urge that the state rodeo definitions and provisions in Section 596.7 of the Penal Code, be incorporated into like provisions of the draft ordinance.

V. Action Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983

If the ordinance enacted is substantially the same as its draft, the Coalition and its members may have a valid action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 because local officials have violated their civil rights under the United States Constitution. Because the ordinance may violate the Coalition and its members rights pursuant to the First, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments, a 1983 claim may exist because they would have been denied rights that are secured by the U.S. Constitution.

Accordingly, should the ordinance be enacted with the current draft language, the Council should be aware of the important constitutional rights that will be compromised, and other potential legal challenges that may exist upon amendments or modifications to the ordinance language. The

Coalition therefore urges the Council to consider the amendments to the draft ordinance submitted by the Coalition to avoid legal ramifications and challenges.

Very truly yours,

Western Sports Industry Coalition

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Western Sports Industry Coalition Members

Professional Bull Riders Association	Short Go
Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association	Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity
Western Justice Legislative Fund	Pro Fantasy Rodeo
Federacion Mexicana de Charrería	Western & English Sales Association
Indian National Finals Rodeo	Priefert
Fiesta Stock Horse Show and Rodeo	RanahaN Custom Designs
Western States Ranch Rodeo Association	American Rope Horse Futurity Association
Red Bluff Round-up Association	Ariat World Series of Team Roping
California Rodeo Salinas	Remount
Protect The Harvest	The Cowboy Store
Clovis Rodeo	Fast Back
Santa Maria Elks Rodeo and Parade	Resistol
National High School Rodeo Association	Challenge Of Champions Tour
Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Racing Association	American Hat Company, INC
CA Circuit Finals Rodeo	Stetson
Bill Pickett Rodeo	Charlie 1 Horse Hat
Compton Cowboys	Cactus Gear
Pcha – Pro charro Association	Cactus Ropes
Big Hat Rodeo	Cactus Saddlery
American Bucking Bull Inc.	Woman's Rodeo World Championships
Shawnee Youth Rodeo	Murieta Equestrian Center
American Quarter Horse Association	Woman's Professional Rodeo Association
Military Rodeo Cowboys Association	
Crown Seven	
National Stock Horse Association	
International Professional Rodeo Association	
Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association	
United States Team Roping Championships	
National Team Roping	
Flying U Rodeo	
World Championship Rodeo Alliance	
Midwest Rodeo Entries	
Hooked Up Enterprises	

Western Sports Industry Coalition

May 21, 2021

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CF 20-1575 (Rodeo Events)

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield:

On behalf of the Western Sports Industry Coalition, a group of 30 organizations representing rodeo professionals, the world's leading bull riding organization, equestrians, sports organizations, and cultural institutions, we wanted to respectfully voice our opposition to specific items in your motion for an ordinance that would impose restrictions on rodeo and bull riding events in the City of Los Angeles. The motion, as currently written, will impose unnecessary measures on a sport that already has extensive animal welfare policies, procedures and guidelines. Such an ordinance would effectively ban these events altogether in the City of Los Angeles. Eliminating rodeo events in Los Angeles will have both a negative cultural and economic impact on the City. We want to share with you how many of the animal welfare concerns raised in your motion are already addressed in officially sanctioned rodeo events, and demonstrate how this ordinance is unnecessary and detrimental to our organizations, our Black and Latino culture, and the city of Los Angeles.

Our member organizations have long taken leadership roles developing animal welfare regulations to preserve the welfare of our animals. Simply put, we could not hold rodeo events without the continued health and well-being of our animals. We undertake the following animal welfare measures for all rodeo and bull riding events:

- **Spurs** are used by contestants for balance and to keep time with the animal. We do not allow sharpened or fixed spurs or rowels. All rowels are dull, about the thickness of two quarters, roll freely in the horse riding events, and roll 1/5 of a turn in bull riding. They do not harm the animal.
- **Flank straps** for horses must be covered in fleece or neoprene, and flank straps for bulls are made of soft cotton rope and are equivalent to the use of a belt by a person. Contrary to common misinformation, the straps do not touch the animal's genitals. Neither type of flank strap harms the animal in any way and do NOT make them buck – horses and bulls are bred to buck.
- **Electric prods** are not permitted except for the safety of livestock, the contestant, or personnel. When they are used, the output is measured in milliamps (1/1000th of an amp), typically in the 1.5-4.0 mA range. Household electrical circuits typically carry up to 20 amps – *5,000 to more than 13,000 times more current than a battery-operated prod.*
- **Wire tie-downs** are not used in bull riding events held by Professional Bull Riders (PBR), and are used only in equestrian events. All wire tie-downs must have a nose covering in all

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Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) events, and in events held by the Mexican Federation of Charros in California (FMCH-CA), the use of wire material is strictly prohibited.

More details on these safety measures can be found in the attached fact sheet.

Additionally, effectively banning rodeos in the City of Los Angeles would impose major hardships on three major cultural groups – Mexican American *Charros*, Black cowboys, and Native Americans – and their ability to hold and compete in rodeo events that provide valuable education and inspiration, particularly to youth. The first, competitive *Charrería*, a cultural tradition originally from Mexico which has been passed down from generation to generation, is prominent in Mexican American culture as well. Inscribed in 2016 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, *Charrería* and its *Charros* (riders) carry on a proud tradition of roping and handling cattle and horses, with saddles, spurs and other pieces of equipment designed by local artisans. The second, Black rodeo organizations, including the Compton Cowboys, and the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo also represent the history and tradition of rodeos, ranching and agrarian lifestyle in the Black community. Finally, Native Americans, the original stewards of our land, participate in western sports at a professional level greater than in any other area of sports.

One additional consequence of this proposed rodeo ordinance's language is making two sports of 2028 LA Olympics illegal – Equestrian and Modern Pentathlon. Both events' participants use spurs with fixed rowels.

Finally, if the City of Los Angeles's actions ultimately prevented large sporting events such as the Professional Bull Riders, last held at STAPLES Center in February 2020, the City would lose significant revenue, including hotel bed taxes associated with the event and economic activity generated by both participants and fans. Eliminating rodeo events would impact venues like STAPLES Center, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars in economic impact to Los Angeles as well as hundreds of hours of union work by members of IATSE Local 33 and other workers represented by organized labor who support the event's logistics.

Thank you for taking the time to review this material and allowing us the opportunity to provide you with facts and context to demonstrate the numerous detrimental consequences of this unnecessary ordinance. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Dave Duquette, President and Executive Director of Western Justice at dave@westernjustice.info or 541-571-7588, or our advocate David Gershwin at david@davidgershwin.com or 323-791-2319.

We look forward to discussing this matter with you further.

Sincerely,

Western Industry Sports Coalition

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AMERICAN
QUARTER
HORSE
ASSOCIATION



COMPTON
COWBOYSSM



jr. rodeo
RODEO STARTS HERE



Murieta Equestrian Center



National Stock Horse Association

Simply The Best



PCCHA
PACIFIC COAST CUTTING HORSE ASSOCIATION



www.pccha.com



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cc: The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
The Honorable Paul Koretz
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
The Honorable Mike Bonin
The Honorable Gil Cedillo
The Honorable Paul Krekorian
The Honorable Nithya Raman
The Honorable Nury Martinez
The Honorable Monica Rodriguez
The Honorable Curren Price
The Honorable Mark Ridley-Thomas
The Honorable John Lee
The Honorable Kevin de Leon
The Honorable Joe Buscaino
Ms. Valerie Flores, Office of the City Attorney
Mr. Steve Houchin, Office of the City Attorney
Mr. Adam Lid, Office of the City Clerk
Mr. John White, Office of the City Clerk

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Attachment

Rodeo & Bull Riding Animal Welfare Facts

Overview – Key Takeaways

- The motion, as currently written, will ban equipment that is necessary for human and animal safety in rodeo and bull riding events. Without being able to use this safety equipment, we will be unable to hold these events in Los Angeles.
- There are deep Latino and African American cultural connections to rodeos, which celebrate the ranching and agrarian lifestyle rooted in Los Angeles.
 - The history and tradition of Charrería, an event similar to rodeo, is deeply engrained in the Mexican spirit. The tradition represents important social values, such as love and care of animals, and respect and equality for people in the community.
 - The Black cowboys in South Los Angeles known as “The Compton Cowboys” help tell this history, serve as an inspiration to youth, and are now receiving national recognition.
 - The nation’s all-Black touring rodeo, the Bill Picket Invitational Rodeo, which teaches forgotten history of Black cowboys and cowgirls while inspiring youth, will be unable to have events in LA if this ordinance is adopted.
- The health and safety of all animals involved in rodeo and bull riding events is of paramount importance to every rodeo organization. There is a zero-tolerance policy in place for the mistreatment of any animal. Penalties for the mistreatment of animals include fines, disqualification and even expulsion.
- Animals in rodeo get the best food and medical care and live a substantially better life than animals not involved in rodeo.

Flank or Bucking Straps

- Flank straps are used as an extra cue to encourage bucking.
- Flank straps do not harm or injure the bulls or horses and do not make them buck. Horses and bulls are bred to buck. Genetics are the most prevalent factor in determining the animal’s ability to buck.

Electric Prods

- Electric prods are used only for the safety of the animal or contestant.
- The electric prod has an output so small that it is measured in milliamps (1/1000th of an amp) - 1.5 to 4.0 mA. This is slightly stronger than the shock a person may receive through static electricity.
- Use of electric prods in a California rodeo is used in compliance with existing CA penal code 596.7

Wire Tie-Downs

- The tie down is a safety device, which does not harm the horse.
- The tie-down is used as a balance point for the horse to push into and keep its head down as it is running or pulling cattle. The horse needs to have its head down in order to see the cattle’s movement and adjust accordingly. It keeps the horse moving horizontally with its feet on the ground and its center of gravity low, much like an offensive lineman in football. Horses that naturally keep their heads and center of gravity low do not need a tie down for balance.
- All wire tie-downs must have a nose covering in ALL PRCA events.

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- In Charro events, tie-downs and nosebands must be leather, cotton, or waxed string/rope. The use of any wire material is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.
- Tie-downs are not used in PBR. They are used in the equestrian events by contestants on their own horses.

Sharpened or Fixed Spurs or Rowels

- All rowels on riders' spurs in rodeo and bull riding are dull and do not harm the animal. Sharpened spurs are not permitted.
- The spurs in the bucking horse events are used by the contestants for balance and to keep time with the animal.
- In PBR, spurs are used by riders to help with grip and balance on the bull. PBR mandates a spur rowel that is dull to the touch.
- Flankmen, livestock owners, gate men, judges, and others are all monitoring to ensure sharpened spurs are not used. Spurs are inspected by personnel on the back of the chute as the rider is mounting the animal. Riders with sharp rowels, or hook spurs will be disqualified from the event, fined and could face suspension.

Injuries in Rodeo and Bull Riding

- The claim that animal injuries are “common” is myth promulgated to sensationalize the occurrence of rare injuries.
 - PRCA tracks and reports all injuries occurring in state to the California Veterinary Medical Board. The PRCA has a 99.9% safety rating with the livestock in rodeo. Less than 1% of livestock exposures result in any form of injury.
 - A survey conducted at 148 PRCA rodeo performances and 70 sections of slack recorded 28 injuries occurring during 60,244 exposures. This calculates to an injury rate of .00046 or just under five-hundredths of 1%.
 - PBR reports bull injuries/fatalities occurring in .0002% of outs (the bull leaving the chute).
 - In more than 5,000 PBR bull outs in 2020, there were two bull injuries.
- Injuries ranging from a minor scratch to more severe only happen 1/100th of a percent of total animal exposures annually.

Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Animal Welfare Facts

The PRCA has been sanctioning rodeos since its first iteration in 1936, wrote its first animal welfare laws in the mid 1940's, and has been the industry leader in creating the standard in animal welfare for rodeo. The rodeo industry could not continue without the health and well-being of its animals being at the forefront of its concerns. Today, the PRCA has over 70 rules covering the welfare of the livestock used in rodeos.

Flank Straps

- The purpose of the flank strap is to encourage the horse to kick as it is bucking. It also helps the horse to slow down and remain in control with its head up as it is bucking.
- Flank straps must be covered in fleece or neoprene. No wire or sharp/foreign objects are allowed including but not limited to zip ties, wire, plastic, steel, golf tees, etc.

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- Flank straps fit around the waist, much like a belt on a person. When a horse is in the chute, the flank strap is loose. As the horse leaves the chute it is tightened to approximately the same tightness as a snug belt or a pair of shoelaces on a basketball or running shoe.
- The flank strap has a quick release mechanism so that a pickup man may release it when he rides up and helps the cowboy dismount from the horse at the end of the ride.
- The flank strap is not attached or wrapped to the genitals of a horse. This is a myth and easily debunked by pictures of these animals in action.

Prods

- The use of an electric prod in the chute is prohibited except if needed for the safety of the livestock, contestant, or personnel as determined by a rodeo judge – all extremely rare circumstances.
- The electric prod has an output so small that it is measured in milliamps (1/1000th of an amp) - 1.5 to 4.0 mA. This is slightly stronger than the shock a person may receive through static electricity.
- A prod is used minimally to move 1,500+ pound animals who stall out in the bucking chute. Similar to a sprinter leaving the starting block or a hurdler avoiding tripping over a hurdle, the move out of the chute needs to be as clean as possible. Prods help with this action while keeping the animal safe.
- It is also a matter of safety for the contestants by keeping the animal from dragging a leg and catching a toe in the gate or on the front of the chute.
- The use of an electric prod in California rodeos is used in compliance with existing California penal code 596.7 – “The rodeo management shall ensure that no electric prod or similar device is used on any animal once the animal is in the holding chute, unless necessary to protect the participants and spectators of the rodeo.”
- California’s law followed the rules for prod usage that the PRCA has used and developed since 1960.

Spurs

- ALL spurs are dull. Sharpened spurs are strictly against the rules in PRCA events.
- Rodeo spurs have rowels that are attached and roll freely. Only in the bull riding are these rowels semi-locked (able to turn about 1/5 of a turn).
- Bucking Events
 - The spurs in the bucking horse events are used for balance and to keep time with the animal as it is bucking. The rowels are dull, loose, and about the thickness of 2 quarters. They are used like hand holds for the rider’s feet but are reset each jump to keep in time with the horse. Bull spurs, also dull and not harmful to the animal, are the thickness of three quarters.
- Timed Events (Tie-down Roping, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, and Steer Wrestling)
 - The spurs used in the timed events are used to move the horse forward as well as to get the horse to move its front feet or back in a certain direction.
 - In the roping events and barrel racing, spurs are a cue to shift weight or bend the horse’s body to maintain balance while making a turn or absorbing the pull from a roped bovine. The reins on a bridle tell the horse when to go, stop, and turn – the spurs tell the horse how fast, and how its body needs to be positioned when doing these.

Wire tie-downs

- All wire tie-downs must have a nose covering in ALL PRCA events.
- Tie downs are used as a balance point for the animal and do not harm them.

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Animal Injuries

- The claim that animal injuries are “common” is a myth sensationalizing the occurrence of rare injuries.
- The PRCA has a 99.9% safety rating with the livestock in rodeo. Less than 1% of livestock exposures result in any form of injury.
- The claim that “many animals are put down” is false, a fallacy proven by simple economics and mathematics. It is economically inviable that the owner of the livestock could afford, much less tolerate, the loss of “many” of his assets.
- Mathematically, the loss of “50%” – as has been claimed– of the animals per year, is completely false. No business can lose 50% of its product and remain a business.
- Misinformation is being used to allege that livestock used in rodeos are “wild” animals gathered from the plains and pastures, loaded up, hauled to the rodeo, and put into their respective events without conditioning to feed, transportation, human contact, and more importantly, the physical conditioning needed. This is false. The animal athletes are bred for their specific purpose and trained for their respective events.
- The livestock are in the truest sense, animal athletes. No different than a football, basketball, baseball, or track athlete.
- Diets are monitored closely, as well as the best veterinarian care provided.

FMCH-CA (Mexican Federation of Charros in California) Animal Welfare Facts

Charrería was inscribed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2016. Charrería is considered an important aspect of the identity of bearer communities and their cultural heritage since the late 1800’s.

Charrería is a tradition passed down from generation to generation. Riders, known as charros, are skilled horsemen who proudly carry on traditions such as roping and the handling of cattle and horses. Charros and their horses often spend decades together working in the ring and competing in events. Following the conclusion of their career, these horses can live up to another 20 years. Many find second careers in breeding and as therapy horses.

Flank Straps

- Both the bull rope and flank strap, or “verijero,” are made of cotton. There are no spikes or sharp edges to it.
- The flank strap is loosely fitted, and contrary to myth is not wrapped around the animal’s genitals.
- The flank strap is necessary so the animal bucks and does not flip over or fall back on the rider. These straps help avoid injury to both the animals and the riders.

Prods

- The use of electric prods is strictly prohibited inside the arena. Outside the arena, the battery-operated less-than 1-amp prods, are used only if necessary when moving cattle. This prod is only handled by the sports commissioner if necessary.

Spurs

- The spurs are used to assist the rider in holding on and keeping balance, when riding the bulls and bucking horses.

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- Hook spurs with sharp rowels, a tied heel, or angled shanks are strictly prohibited.
- Competitors are under constant evaluation, and anyone who uses prohibited spurs will be disqualified.
- The commissioner at each event has two pairs of spurs that are readily accessible for all riders to use. These are the ONLY spurs allowed. No one can use their own spurs.
- For reining and roping events, the spurs are dulled with free rolling rowels. Spurs are used as a cue for horses to move forward and for the rider's balance.

Wire tie-downs

- Tie downs and nosebands must be leather, cotton, or waxed string/rope.
- The use of any wire material is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Animal Injuries

- There is zero tolerance for animal abuse. Punishments for evidence of animal abuse include fines and a potential lifetime ban.
- Most charros make a living of breeding and raising their horses and livestock.
- There is no economic value to have their animals injured or abused.
- Many hours are spent training the animals to perform to their best abilities.
- The safety rating with livestock in the charro events is similar to the PRCA.
- In the case of any accident, we tend to the animal immediately with our vets and those who are trained to be vet techs.

PBR Animal Welfare Facts – Bulls

Every bull ride takes two athletes – a courageous cowboy and world-class bovine. The prized animal athletes competing in professional bull riding are cared for as true stars of the sport. Here are important facts about the world-class treatment of the bulls in PBR:

The bulls buck because of genetic breeding. Just as thoroughbred racehorses are carefully bred to run fast, PBR bucking bulls are genetically disposed to jump, kick and spin with power and grace. They are NEVER shocked, coerced, or harmfully prodded to compete. The only training device used to stimulate bucking behavior is a flank strap tied relatively loosely around the haunches of the bull. This cues the animal's movement.

The flank strap does not hurt the bull. This soft cotton rope – perhaps the most misunderstood piece of equipment in sports – is used to encourage a genetically pre-disposed bucking bull to kick. Imagine a kitten with a ribbon loosely tied around its paw, trying to shoo it away. The flank strap never touches the bulls' genitals.

Spurs are dull and do not harm the bull. In PBR, spurs are used by riders to help with grip and balance on the back of the bull. PBR mandates a spur rowel that is dull to the touch. Judges inspect each rider's boots prior to every event. A rider found with spurs in violation of the rules would be disqualified, fined, and potentially suspended.

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Bucking bulls have a carefully regulated diet, health regimen, travel and performance schedule. PBR has rigorous guidelines for transporting the bulls, required travel rest periods, and other policies based on the primacy of animal welfare. Bulls compete at most two times in any given weekend, many only once. Beyond that, stock contractors treat their prized animal athletes like members of their own family, including giving them the very best food and health care. Stock contractors determine their bulls' schedules in the best interests of their valuable animal athletes whose health and well-being impact their livelihood.

These bulls enjoy what they are doing. Each stock contractor has stories about bulls eager to rush into the trailer to go to PBR events. They have a job to do, which they love. They buck with the same prideful zeal as a dog returning to its owner a thrown ball. Just as it is evident when a pet is happy, the bulls exhibit the same energetic, tail-wagging behavior on game day.

PBR bulls live a long and healthy life. Outside the PBR, bulls enter the food supply at the average age of three. PBR bulls enjoy a substantially longer and better life. Following the first-class life of a professional athlete, getting the very best food, training and medical care, these bulls retire to stud at a relatively young age. They live the remainder of their pampered life breeding on a rural ranch. In the bovine world, becoming a PBR bucking bull is like winning the animal lottery.

PBR is a sport that celebrates its animal athletes, who live a great, long life. We are proud to be part of a sport that always puts its animal athletes first. Following the first-class life of a professional athlete, getting the very best food, training and medical care, these bulls retire to stud at a relatively young age.

Olympics and Other Equestrian Events

Like in rodeo, Equestrian spurs are used as cues to change pace and move the feet and body certain directions and ways. Equestrian events, such as dressage and cutting, permit spurs to have rowels. In dressage they are typically smooth, blunt, and free to rotate.

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FICTION VS. FACT:

Debunking Myths and Falsehoods About Rodeo in the 1974 Publication, *Special Report on Rodeo*

FICTION: “Flank straps and spurs drive into horse’s flesh to make horses buck.”	FACT: Flank straps merely encourage an animal to buck. Rodeo animals are bred to buck. Furthermore, flank straps are cinched around the waist of the animal and fit like a belt or harness. The animal’s skin or flesh is not harmed in any way. Horse flank straps must be covered in fleece or neoprene. Bull flanks are made of soft cotton rope.
FICTION: “This [flank] strap is, at least, a severe annoyance to the horse, applying pressure to sensitive lumbar nerves, the ingroinal canal area, and, on fairly frequent occasions, it involves the prepuce of the male animal.”	FACT: The flank strap is placed around the animal’s waist and does not touch the genital or groin area. Horse flank straps must be covered in fleece or neoprene. Bull flanks are made of soft cotton rope. Flank straps fit around the waist, much like a belt on a person. When a horse is in the chute, the flank strap is loose. As the horse leaves the chute it is tightened to approximately the same tightness as a snug belt or a pair of shoelaces on a basketball or running shoe.
FICTION: “Invariably, the horse stops bucking the second that the pickup rider releases the bucking strap.”	FACT: Some horses will still buck even when a flank strap malfunctions and falls off before the eight seconds are up or in other cases continue to buck after the flank strap is released.

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	Most bucking horses do indeed stop bucking when the flank strap is released because, just as it's a cue to buck, it is also a cue to stop when it is released.
FICTION: "Horses come out of the bucking chutes because: a. The pressure of the flank strap. b. The spurring of the cowboy"	FACT: Horses come out of the bucking chutes because they have a natural instinct to move to open space. The flank strap is used to encourage the bucking trait that is already bred into rodeo animals, and spurs are used for balance and to signal the animal. Neither are used to make horses come out of the bucking chutes. In fact, it is against the rule for the athlete to use the spurs on the horse before leaving the bucking chute.
FICTION: "It is important to mention that a critical observer who is familiar with the natural bucking process of a horse, will quickly detect the rather unnatural bucking of a horse with a flank strap applied."	FACT: Again, flank straps simply encourage a trait that is already bred into rodeo broncs and bulls. To call it "unnatural" is to ignore a bronc or bull's natural instincts.
FICTION: "Use of the flank strap and the spurs often cause horses to 'buck blind' and run into the arena fencing/gates."	FACT: Flank straps do not cause horses to run into arena fencing/gates. The horses buck for approximately 8 seconds, after which they stop. You can't make an animal buck if it doesn't want to do it. The flank strap slows the animal down and helps it maintain control during the contest. It is exactly opposite of the allegation.
FICTION: "The 'hot shot' will, at times, 'draw blood' and will always produce skin damage"	FACT: Low-amp electric prods are a humane way to move animals when their safety or the safety of humans is at risk. The sensation the animal feels is similar to what we feel with static

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	electricity. Electric prods do not hurt the animals, do not damage their skin in any way and never draw blood.
FICTION: “Lesions produced by the raking of spurs over the neck, shoulder, and costal areas of bucking horses are rarely treated.”	FACT: Sharp spurs are not permitted in PBR, PRCA, and Charro events, so there are no lesions caused by spurs on bucking horses. In the rare case a horse may be injured in any way, the owner is obligated to seek care with a veterinarian, and the animals are treated promptly.
FICTION: “There is little or no humane supervision at most rodeos.”	FACT: There must be an officially sanctioned veterinarian present at all organized rodeo events in the event of a medical issue. Additionally, all animal owners have a personal stake in the health, safety, and welfare of their animal, and practice humane supervision at all times.
FICTION: “The R.C.A. has stated and written there is less than 1% injury to animals in all of rodeo. They, of course, are talking about visible injuries that the spectator might, momentarily at least, have observed from the stands and worried about.”	FACT: There is in fact a remarkably low rate of injury to all animals in rodeo events – it is currently a rate of 0.00046 – just under 5 one-hundredths of one percent. This includes all injuries, not merely “visible” injuries.
FICTION: “It is the conclusion of this study that any animal roped even once suffers injury from the scientific point of view. The injury is not often externally visible, but an injury occurs regardless.”	FACT: Statistics do not support the idea that once an animal is roped it is injured.
FICTION: “There is little ‘respect for life’ displayed when the stock is loaded and unloaded.”	FACT: Rodeo people are animal lovers. Rodeo animals are treasured by their owners and are treated humanely

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	at all times. The owners of these prized animals have the utmost respect for their lives and never want to see any animals harmed in any way.
FICTION: “The calf roping or busting event is present in all rodeo performances.”	FACT: Tie Down roping is present at most PRCA events, some standalone Bronc or Bull riding events do not have roping events. Steer roping, or what they are calling “Busting” does not occur at any California events.

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OTHER FALSE, MIDLEADING, AND OUT-OF-DATE STATEMENTS RELEASED BY ANIMAL ACTIVISTS

MISLEADING STATEMENT: “August 19, 2010: A horse died of cardiac arrest at the Canby [Oregon] Rodeo.”

IN REALITY: This statement is misleading and is provided out of context. This horse happened to be at the Canby Rodeo – the rodeo did not cause cardiac arrest. Over the course of their life, some horses die of cardiac arrest, and do so wherever they might be.

FALSE STATEMENT: “June 2, 1998/Connecticut: During a ‘dash for cash’ contest at a rodeo fundraiser for the Connecticut Make-A-Wish Foundation, a steer was tackled and thrown to the ground. His neck was broken. The steer died, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation later announced it would no longer be associated with rodeos.”

IN REALITY: This is incorrect and offensive. Make-A-Wish Foundation continues to be associated with rodeos, working in partnership with rodeo and PBR events. As recently as 2019, PBR hosted Make-A-Wish kid Kye Davis at the World Finals in Las Vegas. His dream was to be a cowboy and PBR made him one. He flew in from Houston and walked down the famous Blue Carpet with bull riding star Chase Outlaw. Kye would pass away two months later.

MISLEADING STATEMENT: PETA, in their publication *Rodeo: Cruelty for a Buck*, describes the following incident:

“July 30, 2011/Snyder, Texas: A horse who was at the Scurry County Rodeo died and later tested positive for rabies.”

IN REALITY: Blaming the Scurry County Rodeo for a disease that was most likely contracted elsewhere is completely irresponsible. Mammals contract rabies all the time. Throughout the nation’s horse population, some horses contract rabies.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS: PETA, in their publication *Rodeo: Cruelty for a Buck*, also lists numerous incidents of horses being euthanized after sustaining injuries. These incidents are listed without context, and without acknowledging that animals are euthanized for humane purposes to reduce animal suffering.

Also, the number of horse deaths each year as listed by PETA is extremely small.

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PETA cites 3 horse deaths in 2018, 8 in 2017, 8 in 2016, 8 in 2015, 3 in 2014, 7 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 4 in 2011, 4 in 2010, 5 in 2009, 3 in 2008, 2 in 2007, 2 in 2006, 6 in 2005, 14 in 2004, 3 in 2003, 4 in 2002, 7 in 2001, 6 in 2000, 9 in 1999, 2 in 1998, 2 in 1997, 4 in 1996, 2 in 1995.

IN REALITY: PETA is sensationalizing the very rare occurrence of animal injuries at rodeos. Bulls and horses, like all living creatures, have a life that is not infinite and endless. Bulls and horses die of injuries that occur on the farm, on the range, and at many other places for many reasons. There are tens of thousands of rodeo starts each year by bulls and horses, with all sanctioned events requiring on-site veterinarians who intervene if any animal is at risk.

Finally, PETA is citing the incredibly small number of horses euthanized as a result of injuries as a reason to ban rodeo. However, PETA itself has an incredibly high euthanasia rate of animals in its care, according to multiple annual reports submitted to the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS).

According to PETA's [2018 report](#) submitted to the VDACS, of the 2,512 animals that were in its custody, 1,798 of them were euthanized (72%). [In 2019](#), the VDACS found PETA shelters operating in Norfolk, VA alone, had a euthanasia rate for dogs that was **more than thirteen times** the average rate for private shelters. PETA's euthanasia rate for cats was **more than eleven times** the average rate for private shelters.

OUT-OF-DATE INFORMATION: The publication *Special Report on Rodeo*, published in 1974 and with research conducted in the summers of 1971 and 1972, contains information that is 49 years old, and does not take into account modern rodeo practices and regulations.

CONCLUSION: All of the information presented in the out-of-date and misleading statements are about stopping horse and bull riding. They are not about banning devices that harm animals in rodeo, which is the intention of the ordinance.

Western Sports Industry Coalition

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember, 3rd District
200 N. Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CF 20-1575 (Rodeo Events)

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield:

As veterinarians with many years of experience in treating and working with a variety of animals and serving various rodeo associations, we are writing to state our opposition to an ordinance being considered by the Los Angeles City Council that will essentially ban rodeo, bull riding and some equestrian events.

The Los Angeles City Council has drafted an ill-informed, unnecessary and detrimental proposed ordinance regulating the safety equipment in rodeo. Let us briefly outline why this is, quite simply, very bad and harmful legislation in the face of how rodeo animals are actually treated.

The health and safety of all animals involved in rodeo and bull riding events is of paramount importance to every rodeo organization. There is a zero-tolerance policy in place for the mistreatment of any animal. Rodeo is currently regulated by CA Penal code 596.7; however, rodeo and bull riding organizations greatly respect the valuable animal athletes in their events and go above and beyond these regulations. There are penalties for the mistreatment of animals.

The ordinance will ban equipment that is actually designed for the safety of the animal and the contestants. While we appreciate the "intent" to protect animals, the language in the ordinance, in the name of animal safety, will ban animal safety equipment. As a result, a domino effect of unintended consequences will be triggered that will effectively result in banning all rodeo and equestrian events (including two from the upcoming 2028 Olympics), and other equestrian activities that are culturally relevant, historically important, support minority businesses and athletes, and bring millions of dollars of economic impact to LA.

This ordinance feeds on disinformation that animal injuries are "common" in rodeo when they are actually extremely rare. PRCA, the leading rodeo association which tracks and reports all injuries occurring in the state to the California Veterinary Medical Board, has a 99.9% safety rating with the livestock in rodeo. Less than 1% of livestock exposures result in an injury – and to be more precise, it is an injury rate of .00046, or just under five-hundredths of 1%. Additionally, bull injuries occurring in .0002% of outs (the bull leaving the chute). In more than 5,000 PBR bull outs in 2020, there were two injuries.

The Los Angeles proposed ordinance, as currently written will ban equipment that is necessary for human and animal safety in rodeo and bull riding and presumes or adopts many misconceptions about the equipment, which we address below.

Flank or Bucking Straps

1. Flank straps are used as an extra cue to encourage and enhance the bucking action of an animal with the natural inclination to buck.
2. Flank straps never contain any sharp objects and do not harm or injure the bulls or horses and do not make them buck. Horses and bulls are bred to buck. Genetics are the most prevalent factor in determining the animal's ability to buck.

Electric Prods

1. Electric prods are used for the safety of the animal or contestant when moving the animals. They are not used to encourage an animal to compete.
2. The electric prod has an output so small that it is measured in milliamps (1/1000th of an amp)
3. Use of electric prods in any California rodeo is used in compliance with existing CA penal code 596.7.

Wire Tie-Downs

1. The tie-down is a safety device, which does not harm the horse. Made of leather, cotton, wax string or rope, it serves as a balance point for the horse to keep its head down as it is running.
2. Any wire tie-downs must have a covering to protect the animal.

Sharpened or Fixed Spurs or Rowels

1. All rowels on riders' spurs in rodeo and bull riding are dull and do not harm the animal. Sharpened rowels are not permitted.
2. The spurs in the bucking horse events are used by the contestants for balance and to keep time with the animal, which is not harmed.
3. In the PBR, spurs are used by riders to help grip and balance on the bull. PBR mandates a spur rowel that is dull.

As concerned veterinarians who respect the animal athletes and the care they receive in rodeo as well as the benefit these events generate from cultural, educational, and economic perspective, we urge the City Council to not move forward with this proposal. It is unnecessary for a sport that already protects its animal athletes, and it would be detrimental to the people of Los Angeles in many ways.

Respectfully,

Arturo Esquivel, DVM
Aubrey E Sloan, DVM
Ben Espy, DVM
Bobby Lewis, DVM
Brad Jackman, DVM
Bradley Perdue, DVM
Bud Sloan, DVM
Caitlin Zacha, DVM
Charles Liskey, DVM
Chris Smith, DVM
Dave Fly, DVM
Douglas Corey, DVM
Fallon Haig, DVM

George Dyck, DVM
Harry Werner, DVM
Jerry Black, DVM
Jim Furman, DVM
Joe Carter, DVM
Marty Tanner, DVM
Mike Giacopuzzi, DVM
Mike Peralez, DVM
Richard Giacopuzzi, DVM
Ryan Carpenter, DVM
Sara Campbell, DVM
Tim Eastman, DVM
Tom Lenz, DVM
William Moyer, DVM

Cc:

The Honorable Mitch O'Farrell
The Honorable Paul Koretz
The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
The Honorable Mike Bonin
The Honorable Gil Cedillo
The Honorable Paul Krekorian

The Honorable Nithya Raman
The Honorable Nury Martinez
The Honorable Monica Rodriguez
The Honorable Curren Price
The Honorable John Lee
The Honorable Kevin de Leon
The Honorable Joe Buscaino

Western Sports Industry Coalition

To: Los Angeles City Councilmembers

From: Western Sports Industry Coalition

Re: Call to Action: Save Western Sports in Los Angeles

Date: March 15, 2022

EVENT OVERVIEW

Last month, on February 22, The Western Sports Industry Coalition – a diverse group of 59 Western industry leaders and organizations including PBR (Professional Bull Riders), Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo, National Buffalo Soldiers, California Circuit Finals Pro-Rodeo (which represents 40 pro rodeos in California), Compton Cowboys, California Charro Association, and PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) – hosted a *Call to Action: Save Western Sports in Los Angeles* at Crypto.com Arena to mobilize support for defeating the harmful and unnecessary ordinance that would be ban bull riding, rodeo and equestrian sports in Los Angeles.

Hundreds of attendees turned out, in addition to numerous speakers from the Charro, Black cowboys, veterinarian, entertainment, and western sports communities to voice their opposition to the unnecessary and harmful proposed ordinance, to correct misinformation about animal welfare in western sports, and to share the benefits of these sports to the local community.

600 people attended the event, including representatives from:

- Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo (BPIR)
- California Circuit Finals Pro-Rodeo
- Compton Cowboys
- Federacion Mexicana de Charrería, California (FMCH-CA)
- Members of the Hollywood Community
- National Buffalo Soldiers
- National Charro Associations
- Norco Mounted Posse Rodeo
- Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association (PCHA)
- Professional Bull Riders (PBR)
- Professional Charro Association
- Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA)
- Santa Monica Mounted Posse

Speakers at the event included the following individuals:

- James T. Pickens (“Grey’s Anatomy,” “Yellowstone”)

Western Sports Industry Coalition

- Reginald Dorsey (“21 Jump Street,” “Return to Lonesome Dove”)
- Forrie J. Smith (“Yellowstone”)
- Glynn Turman (“Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” “Cooley High,” “Peyton Place,” “The Wire”)
- Paola Pimienta (National Female Ambassador of the Charros)
- Juan Luis Quesada (President, FMCH-CA)
- Dale Gibson – Hollywood Stuntman and President of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee
- Dave Duquette – Western Justice
- Dr. Douglas Corey – Veterinarian & Chair of the PRCA Livestock Welfare Committee
- Sean Gleason – Commissioner & CEO, PBR
- Steve Knowles – Director of Rodeo Administration, PRCA
- Tim Baldwin – California Rodeo Salinas

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Within a week of the *Call to Action* taking place, 287 new comments were submitted to the Council File on the proposed ordinance expressing opposition to proposed ban on rodeo. As of sending this recap note, there are 3,318 comments opposed to the ban on rodeo and only 1,457 total comment numbers in favor of it.

Every person who commented would be directly impacted by the ordinance, as they either live in Los Angeles or attended PBR’s event at Crypto.com Arena. Commenters respectfully voiced their opposition to the ordinance.

Moreover, the Western Sports Industry Coalition’s petition, which has been gathering support for only a over a year, has 30,069 signatures. This is compared to Last Chance for Animals’ (LCA) petition, which has 24,313 and has been active for three years.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Media coverage of the event Coverage included KTTV-TV (Fox 11 LA), KNBC-TV (NBC 4 LA), KNX News Radio, Spectrum News 1, Univision, KVEA-TV (Telemundo), and The *Washington Times*, and City News Service.

Spectrum News 1: <https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/politics/2022/02/17/la-city-council-to-vote-soon-on-ban-of-devices-used-in-rodeos>

Pepe Aguilar interview on Univision: <https://www.univision.com/shows/el-gordo-y-la-flaca/gente-ignorante-la-familia-aguilar-en-contra-de-la-posible-prohibicion-de-animales-en-los-shows-de-los-angeles-video>

Washington Times: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/feb/21/rodeo-industry-bucks-los-angeles-city-council-bid/>

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City News Service via KNBC-TV: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/last-roundup-rodeo-coming-to-los-angeles-amid-possible-ban/2831744/>

Los Angeles Magazine: <https://www.lamag.com/culturefiles/inside-l-a-s-last-rodeo-cowboys-take-on-the-city-council/>

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Western Sports Industry Coalition has also received support and heard opposition to the proposed ordinance from western sports fans across social media.

Pepe Aguilar, equestrian, and 4-time GRAMMY and 5-time Latin GRAMMY Award-winning singer-songwriter, who has held shows at Staples Center for half a decade now, posted on TikTok with a short video expressing his opposition to the proposed ordinance. If this ordinance passes, all of the rodeo elements on his show would be banned from the city of Los Angeles.

<https://vm.tiktok.com/TTPdAHRFUL/>

CONCLUSION

The Western Sports Industry Coalition will continue to educate, inform, and advocate on behalf of both participants and enthusiasts of western sports who would lose their hobbies, their leisure activities, and their livelihoods if this ordinance were to pass.

The ordinance, if passed, would ban rodeo in the City of Los Angeles and contains false and misleading representations of how rodeo equipment is used to ensure safety for both human and animal athletes. Additionally, the draft ordinance shows a fundamental misunderstanding of how equipment is used in various forms of rodeo, including both bull riding, charro and equestrian rodeo.

Please contact Coalition representatives for additional information about this ill-informed, harmful ordinance that would decimate western sports in Los Angeles.

REDLINE - - Western Justice Proposed Amendments to Draft Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to add a definition for a “rodeo” and adding LAMC Section 53.39.2 to prohibit the use ~~of harmful practices, techniques, and certain~~ devices at rodeos ~~or rodeo-related events~~.

~~**WHEREAS**, rodeos often use a number of inhumane implements, including electric prods, flank straps, and spurs to encourage aggressive behavior in animals to produce an entertainment product and which inflict injury, pain, and suffering;~~

~~**WHEREAS**, the City has a compelling interest in ensuring the safety and welfare of animals by restricting the use of harmful practices, techniques, and devices at rodeos; and participating in rodeo;~~

~~**WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles Municipal Code does not currently define a rodeo or rodeo-related event.~~

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The following definition is added to Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code in proper alphabetical order to read as follows:

“Rodeo,” as referred to in California Penal Code 596.7, means a performance featuring competition between persons that includes three or more of the following events: bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, or team roping.” shall mean an exhibition, performance, or competition that includes any of the following: bareback bronc riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping, barrel racing, chuck wagon races, or other similar event or activity.

“Sharpened spur rowels” means spur rowels that are designed to cut or pierce.

“Fixed spur rowels” means spur rowels that are not capable of any turning or rotating.

Sec. 2. Section 53.39.2 is added to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

SEC. 53.39.2. RODEOS. PROHIBITED ~~PRACTICES, TECHNIQUES, AND~~ DEVICES.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any participant in a rodeo to use a prohibited device on an animal to induce or encourage it to perform, that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering, or to conduct or operate a rodeo in which a prohibited device is used in this manner. Prohibited devices shall include electric prods or shocking devices, bare wire tie-downs, and sharpened or fixed spur rowels. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to conduct or, operate a r, or participate in a Rodeo at which any animal is induced or encouraged to perform through the use of any practice or technique, or any chemical, mechanical, electrical, manual prohibited device, or any participant in rodeo to use a prohibited device on an animal to induce or encourage it to perform, that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering, or other similar device or implement, that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering. Prohibited devices shall include, but are not limited to, electric prods or shocking devices, flank or bucking strabareps, wire tie-downs, sharpened and sharpened or fixed spurs rowels, and lariats or lassos. Pursuant to Penal Code Section 596.7(e), in the limited circumstance when necessary to protect an animal, participant, or spectator, an electric prod or similar device may be employed in the holding pens, lead up alleys, or holding chute provided it has a maximum of 4.0 milliamps. however, in the limited circumstance when necessary to protect a participant or spectator, an electric prod or similar device may be employed, but only from the time

REDLINE - - Western Justice Proposed Amendments to Draft Ordinance

~~the animal enters the performance holding chute until the conclusion of the performance, competition or exhibition of the animal, which is the time period when the animal's potential for dangerous human interaction is most likely.~~

(b) Any person conducting or operating a Rodeo shall comply with the requirements of California Penal Code Section 596.7(b) through (de) relating to the presence of a licensed veterinarian, and availability of a conveyance for injured animals. ~~(b) Any person conducting or operating a Rodeo shall comply with the requirements of California Penal Code Section 596.7(b) through (e) relating to the presence of a licensed veterinarian, availability of a conveyance for injured animals, and use of an electric prod or similar device to protect the participants or spectators of a Rodeo.~~

(c) No person shall conduct or operate a Rodeo without first obtaining a permit from the Department as required by Section 53.50.

(d) If any subsection, subdivision, clause, sentence, phrase, or portion of this section is held unconstitutional or invalid or unenforceable by any court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction, the remaining subsections, subdivisions, clauses, sentences, phrases, or portions of this section shall remain in full force and effect, and to this end the provisions of this Section are severable.

Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

WESTERN SPORTS INDUSTRY COALITION
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT ORDINANCE REGARDING RODEO EVENTS

PROBLEMATIC ORDINANCE LANGUAGE	SOLUTION
PREAMBLE: First preliminary clause seeks prohibition of “harmful practices, techniques...at rodeo and rodeo-related events”	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Eliminates language regarding “harmful practices, techniques” to maintain objectivity. Terms “practices” and “techniques” and “rodeo-related events” are vague/undefined.
PREAMBLE: Deems rodeo equipment used for humane treatment of animals and safety for humans as “inhumane implements...which inflict injury, pain, and suffering”	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Language entirely subjective, inflammatory, and untruthful. Contradicts veterinary experts whose very profession is based on humane care for animals. Keep clause declaring City’s “compelling interest in ensuring the safety of welfare of animals” and specify the animals’ participation in rodeo events.
SECTION 1: Rodeo definition is poorly defined and contradicts existing State Law, California Penal Code 596.7	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Change language to align with the CA Penal Code § 596.7 (2018) definition of rodeo event to avoid legal conflicts.
SECTION 1: No definition of sharpened spur rowels or fixed spur rowels – need clarity for compliance and enforcement	<i>Amend.</i> Insert clear, specific definitions for both sharpened spur rowels and fixed spur rowels.
SECTION 2: Prohibits “...any chemical, mechanical, electrical, or manual device that will cause, or is likely to cause, physical injury, torment, or suffering”	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Clarify by banning “...a prohibited device on an animal to induce or encourage it to perform, that will cause, or is likely to cause...” Add prohibition on operating “...a rodeo in which a prohibited device is used in this manner.”
SECTION 2: Bans flank or bucking straps	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Flank and bucking straps are made of thick rope or leather, are tied around the mid-section of the animal, and do not harm animals in any way.
SECTION 2: Bans wire tie downs	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Specify a ban of bare wire tie-downs. Language must not outlaw clasps or buckles on other bull riding or equestrian equipment.
SECTION 2: Bans fixed spurs or rowels	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Prohibit sharpened spur rowels and fixed spur rowels as defined in proposed language for Section 1.
SECTION 2: Bans lariats or lassos	<i>Strike/remove.</i> Lariats and lassos are used to aid an injured animal to safety in herd. This skill is practiced and used in rodeo events.
SECTION 2: Bans electric prods; allows only in holding chute	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Allow prods to be used only in limited circumstances in holding pens, lead-up alleys, and holding chute, to align with CA Penal Code § 596.7. Establish electric prod current maximum of 4.0 milliamps.
SECTION 2: Current language applies against “any person” who conducts, operates, or participates in a rodeo “at which any animal is induced or encouraged to perform through the use of any practice or technique . . . “	<i>Strike/replace.</i> Language should be clarified to be enforceable against the person using the prohibited tool – not other people merely present at, or working at, the event.