

MOTION

Rodeos (and rodeo-type events, namely bull riding as well as charreadas/ charrerias) are events during which the institutionalized abuse of steers, calves, bulls and horses (among others) is sanctioned in the guise of competition. These animals suffer strains, sprains, broken limbs and even broken necks for no discernibly legitimate reason. Even the casual observer can see how the roping, wrestling and other actions can be extremely harmful to the animals, and it is surprising more of them are not seriously injured as they are hobbled, jerked and wrenched around during the "competitions."

Additionally, these popular (though non-sanctioned) rodeo events specifically must be banned: wild cow milking, mutton busting, all animal "scrambles," greased pig contests, chuck wagon and wild horse "races," et al. Nor should we ever forget, that rodeo is merely a detour en route to the slaughterhouse for nearly ALL these animals, horses and bulls included. Even barrel racing can be problematic; there are reports of drug abuse with unsound horses as well as injuries to the horses for performing these tricks. Lastly, there's the Jr. Rodeo (as well as the "challenged buckaroo" rodeo), with its chute dogging, calf riding, mutton busting and goat tying events- all of them cruel.

For these reasons, a growing number of jurisdictions have prohibited rodeos, or the implements, equipment and/or tools without which rodeos cannot be conducted. Among them are the Cities of Fort Wayne, IN, Pasadena, CA, Irvine, CA, Laguna Woods, CA, Chino Hills, CA, Pittsburgh, PA, San Francisco, CA, Southampton, NY as well as Napa County. There are also numerous rodeo bans outside of the US, most recently being the entire province of Quebec, Canada.

The City of Los Angeles has become a national leader in protecting the rights and welfare of animals. It would be in keeping with the City's strong animal welfare ethic to make sure that this is the case by prohibiting the staging of rodeos and rodeo type events within the city limits.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit the staging of rodeos and related events (such as bull riding) within the Los Angeles city limits.

References:

- Butterwick, D.J., Lafave, M.R., Lau, B.H.F., Freeman, T. (2011). Rodeo Catastrophic Injuries and Registry: Initial Retrospective and Prospective Report. *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine*, 21 (3), pp 243-248
- Curnutt, Jordan (2001). *Animals and the Law: A Sourcebook*. ABC-CLIO, Inc.; Santa Barbara, CA. ISBN 1-57607-147-2
- Kaplan, Jared (2012). Toros, Steers, Ropes, Capes, and Cowboy Boots: The Inhumane Nature of Bullfighting and Rodeos. *Mid-Atlantic Journal on Law and Public Property*, 1 (1), pp 52-95
- Larson, Peggy (1998). Rodeo is Cruel Entertainment. *Pace Environmental Law Review*, 16 (1), pp 115-123

also spoke about the recommendations for the budget white paper.

Commissioner Wolfson moved to authorize the use of up to \$30,000 in Animal Welfare Trust Funds for a volunteer appreciation event. **Commissioner Garcia** seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Garcia, Gross, Sandoval and Wolfson

Noes: None.

Absent: Finsten

B. Recommendation to Support Senate Bill No. 313 (Hueso) – Prohibition on the Use of Wild and Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts.

GM Barnette reported that at the last Board meeting she mentioned she felt that this bill was a good next step after the bullhooks for protecting the large cats that are in traveling acts. She noted that there was some opposition to this bill, but after reading the comments, she believed that opponents were confused as they thought that this might somehow hamper humane education of wildlife. **Commissioner Wolfson** thanked Commissioner Gross for scheduling both this item and the next one on the same day. He stated that each one of the cases (administrative appeals) on the agenda demonstrated the level of respect, love, care and concern that the Department had for companion animals and he believed that the same level of compassion, love and care should be extended to all animals.

Public Comment:

Jeff Fleiss, Animal News, stated that he whole-heartedly supported the bill.

David Rutan stated that he was in support of the bill and that confinement of animals alone was enough to support it.

Commissioner Wolfson moved to recommend the support of Senate Bill No. 313, prohibiting the use of wild and exotic animals in traveling animal acts. **Commissioner Garcia** seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Ayes: Finsten, Garcia, Gross, Sandoval and Wolfson

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

C. Recommendation to Amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to Prohibit Rodeo Events in the City of Los Angeles.

GM Barnette stated that the recommendation was to prohibit rodeo activities such as bull-riding, calf-riding and wild cow milking, all of which are abusive and dangerous to the animals and people who participate in the events. **Commissioner Wolfson**, before introducing Heather Hamza, encouraged the

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com

public to bring the Board their ideas and promoted citizen democracy.

Public Comment:

Heather Hamza reported that circuses and rodeos are very much alike in that circuses take wild animals and make them tame, while rodeos take tame animals and make them wild. She stated that large, powerful animals were artificially induced by humans to be terrified to death and their bodies responded in manners which placed them at very high risk for grave injuries and even death. She then described some of the events that take place at rodeos and the injuries sustained by the animals. She also left copies of Rodeo Reporting Forms from the Department of Consumer Affairs. **Commissioner Wolfson** pointed out that Ms. Hamza was supported by a number people through a series of letters which were provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Sandoval asked if anyone knew how many events happen in the City of Los Angeles each year and **Commissioner Garcia** asked if anyone knew where they took place. **Ms. Hamza** responded that she met with Councilmember Koretz a year ago about the subject and at the time there weren't any in the City of Los Angeles, only in the County of Los Angeles. However, when the PBR (Professional Bull Riding) event was scheduled at the Staples Center (Los Angeles) last month they knew it was time to act.

Phyllis Daugherty stated that this wasn't something that we hadn't already seen before. She stated that the Department officers didn't have any experience in real enforcement and noted that there wasn't a draft ordinance attached to the report. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated that there was a motion attached to the report and **GM Barnette** stated that once the motion is passed by City Council, they instruct the City Attorney's Office to draft an ordinance.

David Rutan stated that rodeos have unwilling participants and by having the rodeo here, we are condoning the violent sport. He encouraged the Commission to pass the motion.

Jerilynn Burks read an excerpt from Dr. Peggy Larson, a farmer, a rodeo bareback bronco rider and a large animal veterinarian which described some of the activities that take place at rodeos.

Jeffrey Mausner stated that he grew up in Colorado and had seen rodeos when he was a kid and felt that rodeos were cruelty to animals for entertainment. He also talked about the injuries to people who participate in rodeos as well and urged the Commission to pass the resolution recommending that City Council ban rodeos in Los Angeles.

Audrey Harvey, Last Chance for Animals, spoke about the protest that took place outside the PBA event at the Staples Center. She urged the Commission to support the motion to ban rodeos and rodeo type activities in the City of Los Angeles.

Amanda Lundberg read statements made by T.K. Hardy, a Texas veterinarian and sometimes steer-roper, regarding rodeo activities and spoke about the definition of humane activities toward animals.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com

Jeff Fleiss talked about sadistic skills taught by the rodeo and stated that he had not seen another sport where they have an ambulance on hand for the sake of the animals. He wholeheartedly believed in this bill and supports the ban.

Commissioner Gross requested an amendment to add "including Animal Services" after "appropriate City staff" in the recommended motion.

Commissioner Wolfson moved to recommend an amendment to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit rodeo events in the City of Los Angeles with an amendment to the motion to require that Los Angeles Animal Services staff be included in making the changes. **Commissioner Garcia** seconded and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Garcia, Gross, Sandoval and Wolfson

Noes: None.

Absent: Finsten

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 11:26 a.m.