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CALIFORNIA



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June 3, 2024

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The Honorable City Council
City of Los Angeles
Room 395 City Hall,
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012-4801

LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENT ON PROPOSED RODEO ORDINANCE COUNCIL FILE 20-1575

Dear Honorable Members,

LAEAC commends Council's efforts to protect animals within the City of Los Angeles. However, an ordinance is not the most effective means of achieving that goal. Ordinances that conflict with state law lead to legal challenges. (See CA. penal code 596.7). The core issue lies in the absence of enforcement of existing laws and regulations.

It should also be noted that crafting ordinances based on feelings or social bias has unforeseen outcomes. As first proposed, the "Rodeo Ordinance" would have banned virtually all equestrian competition, including the 2028 Olympics! In contrast, a dedicated enforcement mechanism would facilitate the intended outcome. The Department of Animal Services currently includes oversight authority and permitting for all types of equestrian activity, including rodeos. (Ordinance 186,556 Eff. 4/14/2020).



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LAEAC finds that the proposed ordinance would drive rodeo events underground without oversight or regulation. This poses an increased risk to animal welfare and public safety, as these events would operate outside the purview of authorities.

We appreciate the City Council's dedication to animal welfare. As such, we stand ready to assist in any way to improve the welfare of animals. Rather than pursuing the proposed ordinance, we urge the City Council to focus on enhancing enforcement efforts and collaborating with stakeholders to ensure compliance with existing law.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact T. Hagans 818.937.3551 thagansequinela@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Mary Benson

Mary Benson, President

Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

cc: Staycee Dains, DAS