



MINUTES
LOS ANGELES EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 Monday, April 18, 2020
 6:30 pm
LOS ANGELES EQUESTRIAN CENTER
 180 West riverside Dr. Los Angeles, CA 91506

	Present	Absent
Stefanie Smith, Chair Department of Recreation and Parks	X	
District 1 VACANT		
District 2 Jeffrey Rewald		X
District 3 Jill Haber	X	
District 4 Lisa Hanawalt		X
District 5 David Ramey, DVM	X	
District 6 Mary Benson	X	
District 7 Dale Gibson	X	
District 8 Kevin Atkins	X	
District 9 Vacant		
District 10 Todd La Vergne	X	
District 11 Larry Watts	X	
District 12 Stacia Crane	X	
District 13 Gene Gilbert	X	
District 14 Vacant		
District 15 Vacant		
Mayor's Representative, Scott Perez	X	

Item No. 1 Call to Order. Member Gibson acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 6:40 p.m. The Chair then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Thereafter the Chair welcomed the public in attendance and called a roll of the Members present.

Item No. 2 Motion, Action LAEAC stance on LA City Council File 20-1575

The Chair called for discussion of the draft Rodeo Ordinance that had been posted and circulated to all LAEAC members. Several members of the public spoke and expressed their support of equestrian sports and recreation and about the challenges currently faced by equestrians. Some members of the public questioned whether any rodeo ordinance was necessary. Members of the committee expressed support for an ordinance that would strengthen animal welfare and strengthen prohibitions against animal abuse. Other members expressed concerns that the original ordinance as drafted by the City Attorney focused upon blanket prohibitions of devices rather than requirements and restrictions to prevent animal abuse, while at the same time creating an ordinance that would have the practical effect of prohibiting rodeos within the City of Los Angeles. Other members proposed changes to the draft to assure that the definition of rodeo did not include references to the sport of team penning, which is not a rodeo event, to add a requirement that any rowels on spurs must be free rolling to protect the horse and to correct a typographical error by changing a reference to “pods” to “prods.”

Creation of the Equine Advisory Committee (EAC) was approved unanimously by City Council on February 6, 2009. Council File 07-4097. Members of the Committee are appointed by their Respective Council-members and Mayor.

There will limited Public Comment on Agenda Items during Item Discussion.
 Agenda items may be taken out of order.

THEREAFTER, upon a motion duly made and seconded it was resolved as follows:

RESOLVED, the Los Angeles Equestrian Advisory Committee recommends that the following draft ordinance regulating the conduct of Rodeos within the City of Los Angeles be adopted in lieu of the draft ordinance submitted to the Council by the City Attorney with his Report 21-0377 dated December 17, 2021:

ORDINANCE NO. _____

RODEO ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, rodeos may use certain practices, techniques, to encourage rodeo animals to perform in the production of an entertainment product, and whereas the improper use of such practices techniques, or devices may cause injury, pain, and suffering;

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

WHEREAS, THE Los Angeles Municipal Code does not currently define a rodeo or specifically regulate the conduct of rodeos.

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 53.76 is added to Section 53.00 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

Sec. 53.76 Rodeos

1. **Definitions.** For the purpose of this section 53.76, the following words and phrases are defined and shall be construed as hereinafter set out unless it shall be apparent from the context that a different meaning is intended
 - (a) **“Arena Boss or Event Manager”** shall mean the senior person responsible for the conduct of a rodeo. The Event Manager shall conduct the rodeo in compliance with this ordinance.
 - (b) **“Bareback Bronc-Riding”** shall mean a rodeo event in which the contestant attempts to ride a bucking horse for eight seconds while grasping a leather and rawhide handhold with only one hand.
 - (c) **“Barrel Racing”** shall mean an event in which a horse and rider attempt to run a cloverleaf pattern around preset barrels in the fastest time.
 - (d) **“Box”** shall mean the area where a mounted competitor waits prior to an event.

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- (e) **“Bull Riding”** shall mean an event where the participant rides a bucking bull and must stay on top of the bull with the use of one hand and without touching the bull or himself with his free hand for eight seconds.
- (f) **“Calf Roping”** shall mean a timed event sometimes called “tie-down,” is an event whereby a rider on horseback catches a calf by throwing a loop of rope from a lariat around its neck, dismounts from the horse, runs to the calf, and restrains it by tying three legs together, in as short a time as possible.
- (g) **“Chute”** shall mean the area where a calf, steer, bull, or bucking horse waits prior to being used in an event.
- (h) **“Draw”** shall mean the order in which participants are randomly selected to compete.
- (i) **“Flank Strap”** shall mean a strap or rope that is wrapped around a horse or bull’s flanks.
- (j) **“Girth”** or **“Cinch”** shall mean a leather or cloth strap used to secure a saddle to a horse.
- (k) **“Judge”** shall mean a person who scores an event to determine the winner.
- (l) **“Mutton Busting”** shall mean an event where children between 4 and 7 and not weighing more than 60 pounds ride or race sheep.
- (m) **“Noseband”** shall mean an auxiliary to the bit affixed to the bridle that fits over the nose of a horse that assists a rider in controlling the horse.
- (n) **“Prod”** shall mean a handheld device commonly used to make cattle or other livestock move by striking or poking them, including electronic and sorting sticks and paddles.
- (o) **“Re-ride”** shall mean when a rider is allowed at the discretion of a judge is offered a clean-slate second ride in an event where a score is affected by equipment failure.
- (p) **“Rodeo”** shall mean a public exhibition, performance or competition of professional bull riding alone or in conjunction with two or more of the following events: Bareback Bronc Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Calf Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, Mutton Busting, Wild Horse Racing, or other similar event or activity.
- (q) **“Saddle Bronc-Riding”** shall mean a Rodeo event in which the contestant attempts to ride a bucking horse for eight seconds while seated in a saddle with stirrups, holding a braided rein with one hand attached to a halter.
- (r) **“Spurs”** shall mean a metal tool designed to be worn in pairs on the heels of riding boots as a leg aid.

- (s) **“Steer Wrestling”** shall mean an event in which a horse-mounted rider chases a steer, drops from the horse to the steer, then wrestles the steer to the ground by grabbing its horns and pulling it off-balance so that it falls to the ground.
 - (t) **“Team Roping”** shall mean an event that features a steer and two mounted riders. The first roper is referred to as the "header", the person who ropes the front of the steer. Once the steer is caught, the header must dally (wrap the rope around the rubber covered saddle horn) and use his horse to turn the steer to the left. The second roper is the "heeler" and ropes the steer by its hind feet after the "header" has turned the steer.
 - (u) **“Wild Horse Race”** shall mean an event where teams of three must saddle a horse and race it around a track.
2. **Permits.** No person shall conduct or operate a Rodeo without first obtaining a permit from the Department as required by Section 53.50.
3. **Regulated Devices.**
- (a) **Prods.** No electric Prod or other similar device may be used on any animal once the animal is in the holding chute, unless necessary to protect the participants and spectators of the rodeo. Electric Prods or similar devices may be employed when moving cattle at times when the animal's potential for dangerous human interaction is most likely. If a Prod is used, the animal shall only be touched on the hip or shoulder area. Commonly accepted livestock moving tools such as sorting sticks and paddles are also acceptable, when used appropriately, to move and load livestock
 - (b) **Flank Straps, Cinches and Girths.** No sharp objects are permitted in Flank Straps, Cinches, saddles, or Girths. Flank straps used for horses must be sheepskin-lined or neoprene-lined and shall be of the quick release type. Sheepskin-lined or neoprene lined Flank Straps shall be placed on the animal so the lined portion is over both flanks of the animals. In Bull Riding, a soft cotton rope at least 5/8" in diameter is acceptable as a flank strap and does not require the sheepskin or neoprene lining. No bull tails are allowed under flank straps.
 - (c) **Nosebands.** Any chain, metal and wire tie-downs or bosals must be covered.
 - (d) **Spurs.** Riders shall not use sharp Spurs on any animal. If used, Spur rowels must roll freely and have five or more points.
4. **Compliance With State Law.**
- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person conducting or operating a Rodeo to fail to 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

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for injured animals, and use of an electric Prod or similar device to protect Rodeo participants or spectators.

- (b) All Rodeo participants are subject to disqualification or penalty for violating California Penal Code § 597(a).
- (c) Authorized Department representatives shall be provided access to all areas of the Rodeo grounds and are authorized to take custody of any unfit or abused animal.

5. **Requirements and Restrictions Related to the Use of Animals in Rodeos**

(a) **All Animals.**

- i. All animals must be healthy. Prior to any event all animals participating in the event shall be inspected before the Draw, and no sore, lame, sick or injured animal or animal with defective eyesight shall be permitted in the Draw at any time. Should an animal become sick or incapacitated between the time it is drawn and the time it is scheduled to be used in the event, that animal shall be withdrawn from the competition.
- ii. Any animal that becomes excessively excited and lays down in the Chute repeatedly, or tries repeatedly to jump out of the Chute, or in any way appears to be in danger of injuring itself, must be released immediately.
- iii. Any injured animal shall be humanely removed from the arena before continuing the Rodeo contest or performance.
- iv. Animals participating in Bareback Bronc Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, shall not be placed in the Draw twice in the same day, with the exception of Re-Rides.

(b) **Cattle.**

- i. In all Calf Roping events calves shall be strong and healthy. Contestant must adjust rope and reins in a manner that will prevent horse from dragging a calf. Weight for tie-down roping animals shall be a minimum of 220 pounds and a maximum of 280 pounds with fresh tie-down roping animals not to exceed 260 pounds.
- ii. Animals used in Team Roping shall have a minimum weight of 450 pounds and a maximum weight 650 pounds. All team roping cattle shall be protected by horn wraps. The horns on all team roping cattle shall be blunted to the size of a dime.
- iii. Animals used in the Steer Roping event shall have a minimum weight of 450 pounds and a maximum weight of 600 pounds. Plaster and rebar shall be placed around the horns of Steer Roping cattle prior to contesting, and all such steers should have horn wraps that extend 4 inches down the jaw from the base of the horns. The horns shall be blunted to the size of a

quarter. Horns shall be no less than 6” on each side, and no more than 10” on each side.

- iv. The horns on Steer Wrestling cattle shall be blunted to the size of a dime. Horns shall be no less than 9” on each side

(c) **Horses.**

- i. In timed events, no consecutive runs shall be allowed on the same horse, or horses, unless approval is granted by the Event Manager, Arena Boss and/or stock contractor.
 - ii. Only horses participating in an event shall be allowed in the boxes during any timed event and/or noncompetitive runs.
6. **Arena Safety.** If the arena conditions are deemed to be unsafe by the Event Manager, Arena Boss, a majority of the event representatives present, any Judge, the veterinarian or the primary stock contractor, competition shall be stopped until the arena conditions are deemed satisfactory by the individual or individuals who initially determined that the arena conditions were unsafe.
7. **Saving Clause.** 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 53.76 are severable.

Item No. 3 Adjourn. Upon a motion a motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts,
Secretary

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