

**LOS ANGELES  
EQUINE  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

CITY COUNCIL  
REPRESENTATIVES:

1<sup>st</sup> District: Julian Sandoval  
2<sup>nd</sup> District: Jeffrey Rewald  
3<sup>rd</sup> District: Jill Haber  
4<sup>th</sup> District: Lisa Hanawalt  
5<sup>th</sup> District: David Ramey, DVM  
6<sup>th</sup> District: Mary Benson  
7<sup>th</sup> District: Dale Gibson  
8<sup>th</sup> District: Todd LaVergne

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA



**Eric Garcetti**  
MAYOR

Chair: Stefanie Smith,  
Department of Recreation and Parks

9<sup>th</sup> District: Vacant  
10<sup>th</sup> District: Kevin Atkins  
11<sup>th</sup> District: Larry Watts  
12<sup>th</sup> District: Stacia Crane  
13<sup>th</sup> District: Gene Gilbert  
14<sup>th</sup> District: Vacant  
15<sup>th</sup> District: Vacant  
Mayor's Office: Scott Perez

Los Angeles City Hall 200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

February 10, 2022

Mayor Garcetti and City Council,

Los Angeles City Council established the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee in 2009, under the recommendation of City Council Persons, Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge, who never missed an opportunity to talk to you about horses. The LAEAC is comprised of one Representative from each Council District and the Office of the Mayor.

A Motion from the Board of Animal Services Commissioners pertaining to rodeo in the City of Los Angeles is coming to Council for a Vote. This Motion did not include the guidance or opinions of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee. LAEAC whose members represent all disciplines of riding and of the equine industry, including a world class Veterinarian, Legal Advisors, everyday horse enthusiasts, professional riders and competitors. Only recently did our Committee become aware of the Motion, to Ban Rodeo, from the Board of Animal Services, after a news headline from a local Professional Bull Riders event, "Cowboys injured -4, Bulls Injured-0."

We in Los Angeles are blessed, as are few major urban areas, in possessing a large, active, vibrant equestrian community. In Los Angeles City and County, there are over 90,000 horses. Horses are not only a source of joy, relaxation, recreation, and competition, they are also an important economic entity.

According to a 2018 report, the equine industry in the United States is worth \$122 billion and employs 1.74 million people. In terms of total effect on the U.S. gross domestic product, California lead the way at \$6.97 billion a year, ( but in 2019 this number had moved up 19% to \$8.3 billion a year) with 698,345 horses. Texas spent \$5.23 billion in 2018, with 978,822 with horses.



By our calculations there are roughly 12 people, or constituents, connected to each horse: family, veterinarians, farriers, trainers, tack stores, feed stores, truck sales, trailer sales, boarding facilities and the list goes on

Rodeo and PBR animals are carefully and Humanely used at Internationally famous events all over the United States and Canada. These bulls have followings of their own and are meticulously cared for. All cattle and horses play an important role in rodeos, competitions, ropings, Cattle sorting, Gymkhanas, and various other events. These animals are fed and cared for at the highest levels to ensure long careers. In exchange for a few seconds of riding, bucking or roping, they are accorded a long and productive life. They are cared for and treated humanely. Cattle prods and other devices have already been addressed and are no longer in use. Rodeo flank straps are no different than a person putting their feet or tickling an animal with their fingers in the flank area. A tight flank strap is how handlers get a bull to lay down.

The Los Angeles Equestrian Community is rooted in and entwined with the history of Los Angeles. Equestrian sports are a healthy outdoor activity, promoting important emotional bonds, both between people and between humans and animals. We on the LAEAC are proud of the family and youth that are out riding and caring for our equine friends and companions. During this time of COVID, the horse industry has exploded. The number of horse owners by our calculations have increased by 20% or more. People that were told to be house bound, have found a new lifestyle in the Equestrian community!

Regrettably, there are those that see any human/animal interaction as cruel and obtrusive, equating horse and dog ownership as a kind of slavery. Humans and animals have sustained mutually beneficial relationships for millennia. This Motion is seen by the LAEAC and the larger Equestrian Community as a slippery slope. Today, ban rodeos and youth gymkhanas, tomorrow every other equestrian Event: jumping, polo, dressage, western riding and reining.

The LAEAC asks that you include our representation in planning, meetings or other activities which will impact equestrian use and equine keeping, including discussion and movement on this motion should it be brought to City Council for a vote. We feel our early participation would have provided valuable knowledge which will enable the process to move smoothly and protect the interests of stakeholders in a transparent and effective way.

We have a chance to show America that we in the west value our Equestrian Heritage. We value the horses and bulls and cattle that we compete on and with. I personally remember the names of bulls: Charlie Brown, EM and Dracula, that I rode at rodeos to get my College Education, and at Pro Rodeos, Like Madison

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Square Gardens.

Cowboys and Cowgirls, Charros, English Riders, Jumpers, and every other Equestrian discipline, of all ages and color have come together to ask you not to pass this short sighted Ordinance. We value and hold sacred our lifestyle. This Council Motion will not only crush dreams of our young riders, but will push another multi billion dollar industry out of Los Angeles.

A wise man once said ‘ No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle.’

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Gibson", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Dale Gibson, President. Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee

Cc.

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