

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE L.A. RODEO DEVICE BAN ORDINANCE

With the Los Angeles City Council considering a measure that would ban “tools of torment” from being used in rodeo events in the city, the rodeo industry is waging an 11th-hour misinformation effort to confuse Councilmembers about what the ordinance would do. Here is a handy guide to help distinguish between the myths being spread by Big Rodeo and the facts about what the ordinance would and wouldn't do.

Myth: The ordinance would ban rodeo events in Los Angeles.

Fact: The ordinance would not ban rodeo events. It would ban the use of “tools of torment,” such as flank straps and high-voltage prods, from rodeos and bull riding events in the city of Los Angeles. So long as these tools are not used to force the animals to perform, rodeos can continue in the city.

Myth: The ordinance would ban horseback riding, horse trail riding, ranching, and other equestrian events.

Fact: Everyone knows that these activities are not rodeos. The ban will stop the usage of devices used to force animals to perform in rodeos. Horse riders out for a trail ride would never want their horse to buck wildly as they do in rodeos.

Myth: The ordinance would ban equestrian riding events from the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Fact: Neither dressage nor horse jumping, the two events that make up the equestrian events in the Summer Olympics, require the tools banned in the ordinance before the City Council. Olympic equestrian events are in no way similar to the activities specified in the ordinance. The rodeo industry has moved beyond trying to defend rodeos and is now desperately trying to mislead Councilmembers about the ordinance applying to the Olympics.

Myth: LAPD will no longer be able to deploy officers on horseback for crowd control.

Fact: The LAPD is not using prods or flank straps to make the horses used in crowd control buck wildly. It should also go without saying that police deploying officers on horseback is in no way similar to any of the activities outlined in the ordinance.