

Steve Cooley, District Attorney

County of Los Angeles

210 West Temple Street, Room 18-709

Los Angeles, CA 90012

ph: 213-974-3512, 213-974-3501 • fax: 213-974-1484, 213-687-8525

email: webmail@da.lacounty.gov

web form: <http://da.lacounty.gov/feedback.htm#feedback>

Mayor Sally Zuniga Flowers and City Council Members

City of Artesia; 18747 Clarkdale Avenue

Artesia, CA 90701

ph: 562-865-6262 • fax: 562-865-6240

Sally Zuniga Flowers, Mayor: sflowers@cityofartesia.us

Tony Lima, Mayor Pro Tem: tlima@cityofartesia.us

Victor Manalo, Council Member: vmanalo@cityofartesia.us

John C. Martins , Council Member: jmartins@cityofartesia.us

Larry R. Nelson, Council Member: lnelson@cityofartesia.us

Maria Dadian, City Manager: mdadian@cityofartesia.us

Justine Menzel, Deputy City Manager: jmenzel@cityofartesia.us

Dear D.A. Cooley, City of Artesia Mayor, Council Members and Officials:

I urge the Los Angeles County District Attorney to investigate a bullfight that occurred 5/23/09, at the Festa da Bola in Artesia, CA. An on-site Humane Officer with Animal Cruelty Investigations (ACI) observed the use of wooden poles spiked with sharp nails. The officer saw fighters repeatedly stab and antagonize bulls with these jagged weapons. One bull, allegedly impaled with as many as 8 sticks, left the ring with visible blood and puncture wounds.

After stopping the fight, the ACI officer seized more than 30 nail-embedded sticks. He informed the bullfight sponsors that stabbing a bull violates California anti-cruelty statutes.

According to California Penal Code, Part 1., Title 14. § 597. Cruelty to animals: "Every person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures, or wounds a living animal...is guilty of an offense punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, or by a fine of not more than \$20,000, or by both the fine and imprisonment."

Please seek maximum penalties under California law for this bullfight company, and individuals therein, that knowingly tormented and maimed animals. This company should not retain legitimate means to operate and its employees ought to be barred from possessing or working with animals.

The City of Artesia now has an opportunity to legalize bullfights. I respectfully ask the Mayor and City Council Members to ban these inherently cruel spectacles, performed solely for "entertainment."

As you know, studies show that violence against animals is a precursor to violence against humans — particularly vulnerable victims such as children, women or the elderly. Animal cruelty investigations often uncover domestic violence or other forms of aggression, P. Arkow notes in "Breaking the cycles of violence: A guide to multi-disciplinary interventions."

Please establish a zero-tolerance policy for all acts of animal cruelty. Violence is violence, regardless of the victim's identity.

Thank you,