



**Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration
District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission**

**December 19, 2019
Minutes**

The District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission held its scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Washington, D.C. 20024. The Commission held its Executive Session prior to the Commission public meeting.

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The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Weers at 5:34 pm and attendance was taken.

Commission Members Present: Adam Weers, Andrew Huff and Kim Lockett

Commission Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: S. Skip Brown, Deputy Commissioner, Nicole McClendon, Program Coordinator, Jerry Peterson, Commission Assistant

Staff Members Absent: None

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Chairman Weers called the meeting back into order for public session of monthly meeting.

Agenda Item: Comments from the Public:

- None.

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Agenda Item: Minutes:

- Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Huff and properly seconded by Commissioner Lockett, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the November 14, 2019 minutes.

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Agenda Item: Old Business:

- Medical Requirements: Tabled.



- **Fight For Children Pro-Boxing Event – Fight Night Event November 14th:** Chairman Weers indicated that this was last Fight Night event, which was an institution for many years. It has continuously been a great event and the championship bout was a very good fight as well.
- **Nick Capezza Pro-Wrestling Event, November 16th:** Commissioner Huff stated that this wrestling event went fine. Mr. Capezza plans to run eight shows in the District for 2020. His next show is January 18th at Deanwood Recreation. This was a good development because Commissioner Huff asked if Mr. Capezza would consider hosting a show east of the river, and it will come to pass. He is looking at Walter Reed for an outdoor event in the spring too.

It was further commented that the Commission should explore additional ways to assist Mr. Capezza in hosting events in the city with the goal to encourage him. Also, spotlighting his events with photos on the website would be a good start. Additionally at a promoters' workshop, hopefully he would be willing to share his wrestling events experience. This would make the workshop truly universal and that would pull-in more people from wrestling, boxing and MMA.

- **WWE Pro-Wrestling Event, November 16th:** Deputy Commissioner Brown stated that this event went well, was a solid show and very entertaining. He recognized that considering working to consecutive wrestling events in the same day, they both went without a hitch. He applauded the officials that worked both events and that work individual events, they did a phenomenal job.

Commissioner Lockett thanked Nicole McClendon and Skip Brown for securing tickets to the WWE event for a young man (a wrestling fanatic) and his family. She stated that he expressed a great amount of appreciation and photos were shared of his experience at the event. So again, thank you!

- **UFC Pro-MMA Event, December 7th:** Chairman Weers indicated that on Pearl Harbor Day the UFC returned to the city. Although it has been a longtime, it was awesome to have them back with significant attendance. At about 10,000 attendance it was on par with the attendance they had in 2011. He also noted, the UFC event is the single biggest event next to WWE and All Elite Wrestling, since being on the Commission.

The Chairman stated for the record that there were some angst going into the event concerning weight-cutting but there was a high degree of professionalism by the contestants and staff, and those concerns were alleviated entirely. Hats-off to all involved; and it would be exciting to have them to come back again.



Deputy Commissioner Brown added that Mr. Marc Ratner addressed the officials at the end of the night offering some comments, and the Deputy Commissioner/officials offered thanks, and plan to exchange feedback to make improvements for a better show and its execution.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner advised that there will be officials' training the second Tuesday of the month possibly beginning in January. But there will be training in February and March, to assist with continuing education as needed by officials and training enhancement. Also, the budget may allow for more extensive training to take whatever form the Commission would like but the training(s) should be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

Chairman Weers indicated that he, Deputy Commissioner Brown and a UFC representative had an interesting conversation during the UFC press conference for its December 7th event. There may be available some health and wellness resources through their performance institute that can be utilize in the city to disseminate information to the combat sports community on weigh-cutting for example, and/or to the public dealing with nutrition and general health topics. He further stated that the Department of Parks and Recreation is looking at a summit, dealing with similar topics. These kinds of programs could possibly be a lead-up to the Mayors Cup and spruce-up interest.

- Program Manager Cynthia Briggs expressed thanks and gratitude to the Chairman and Commissioners for the year of activities and all of their hard work. It has been awesome what the Commission and the staff have accomplished. It really made an impact in the city and on the profession. Chairman Weers responded with a note of thanks and appreciation for the sentiment and for Ms. Briggs enabling the Commission to do its best. He stated that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Commission and hopes to continue in that manner. Mr. Weers also stated that the Commission accomplished what it did, because of what Ms. Briggs was able to do for the Commission.

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Agenda Item: New Business:

- Pro-Wrestling Show Presented as an MMA Show: Commissioner Huff announced that he has been in contact with an individual, who plans to apply for a promoter's license to host a Pro-Wrestling show with a mixed martial art format component. But finishing the show would be comparable to the standard wrestling format concerning outcomes.



The contestants will attempt not to hurt each other, but staging the contest, so it look like they are hurting each other. Commissioner Huff also stated that he will ask that individual to provide some additional information (what are his plans, how will the event be advertised, how they will be using the term judge, and if they will use that word publicly). More to come.

- Upcoming Commission Events: Chairman Weers announced the following Event:
 - Pro and Amateur Boxing Event, Saturday, January 11th @ Highland Community Entertainment Hall
 - Ms. Cassandra White, the promoter stated that she is looking to highlight new talent at the event. She is also encouraging families to come out, to see how these young athletes transition into the professional ranks.
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- Commissioner Lockett expressed thanks to Chairman Weers for the help with the initiation of a boxing program at Emery Heights Community Center. Although still at its beginning stages, a big grand opening will be planned.

Agenda Item: Announcement:

- Deputy Commissioner Brown indicated that he was contacted by Jonathan Martin of Pan-Afrikan Diaspora Wrestling that he plans on hosting another Pro-Wrestling event, February 15th – More details to come.

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Agenda Item: Adjournment:

By a consensus, the meeting was adjourn at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Weers", written over a horizontal line.

Adam Weers, Chairperson

1.15.20
Date

Recorder S. Skip Brown, Deputy Commissioner & Minutes prepared by: Chanda Kearney, Program Support Specialist & Deputy Commissioner.