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Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 7:07 PM

Subject: Edmonton Combative sports Commission - Executive Director

February 24, 2010

Dear Mayor & City Councillors,

I am the Past Chair (2008-2009) of the Edmonton Combative Sports Commission (ECSC). I am proud to say I am a third generation Edmontonian (my grandfather was publisher of the Edmonton Bulletin) and am a die-hard booster of the City. I feel privileged to have served on the ECSC as a way of contributing back to the community.

The role of the ECSC is, first and foremost, the safety of the fighters and the public. During my tenure, it was my policy and practice to work with promoters, venue operators, and other regulatory bodies to fulfill this mandate. The Commission was a vibrant and involved body that took an active role in overseeing combative sports. This system worked well as the Commission was supported by a knowledgeable and experienced Executive Director, Orest Zmyndak.

When Mr. Pat Reid was hired as part of a restructuring of the Commission, everything changed. An adversarial approach toward promoters was adopted. For example, despite my specific request that the industry be consulted with regards to any proposed bylaw changes, there was no proper consultation. Operational or regulatory issues that were previously worked out in a consultive manner suddenly became major problems for the parties involved. Under the restructuring, the Commission's role was greatly diminished and the Executive Director's line of reporting was changed to the City via David Aitkin. The ECSC is now essentially a one-man show with Pat Reid making all the decisions.

The cost of running the Commission has risen dramatically under Mr. Reid's stewardship. For example, his trip to California to attend a mixed martial arts' referee course was, in my opinion, money poorly spent. Why not send one of our referees instead who could directly put the training to use in the ring? Mr. Reid did not seek approval from the Commission for this or any of the other trips he has taken since his appointment. I did not find out about this trip until

after he returned! Apparently, Mr. Reid no longer requires Commission approval for his expenses as they are now squirreled away in the City budget and approved without consultation with the Commission. It should be noted that the Commission, which was previously self-funding, now requires financial assistance from the City to operate. A review of Mr. Reid's expense reports should be conducted to ensure value for money was received.

As for my own dealing with Mr. Reid, I found his approach towards myself and several of my fellow Commissioners to be arrogant and condescending. For example, he once referred to Past Commissioner Mary Modrovic, a City employee, as a "transportation lackey". He quickly picked favorites and excluded those who challenged his competency. When Past Commissioner Brian Caines, a well respected Edmonton businessman, took offense to Mr. Reid's attitude and conduct, he was mysteriously not reappointed to the Commission. I am dumbfounded by this decision, which I can only surmise was a purely political and partisan one. Who recommended that Brian not be reappointed? And how is it that candidates recruited by Mr. Reid were appointed en masse?

On more than one occasion, I complained to Mr. Aitkin regarding Pat Reid's performance. Judging from the comments I hear from people in the industry, the situation has only gotten worse. I would be pleased to share with City Council correspondence from promoters, other regulatory bodies, and industry veterans that indicate Mr. Reid has done a poor job of fulfilling his role as Executive Director.

Finally, it is not a coincidence that in November of 2009, I was targeted by a false and malicious complaint from Commissioner Grotski. As a result of this reckless complaint, Mr. Zmyndak (Technical Advisor) was suspended and I was asked to "step aside" while a forensic audit was conducted. Mr. Aitkin is in charge of the investigation of the complaint. While I have been told by Mr. Aitkin that the complaint has been investigated and found to be without merit, serious damage has been done to my reputation. I am considering taking legal action against the City due to the way this malicious and unfounded complaint was handled and communicated to others. I have no doubt that this complaint was designed to marginalize me in the last month of my term.

In closing, I am dismayed that the reputation of the ECSC has been tarnished by Mr. Reid's perceived incompetence. He appears to be a bureaucrat with little business acumen and has, in my opinion, been a disaster as Executive Director of the Edmonton Combative Sports Commission. I urge City Council to conduct a full review of Mr. Reid's performance as Executive Director and would be pleased to meet with the City in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

John Campbell

Past Chair, Edmonton Combative Sports Commission