



City Council  
#1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
2nd Floor, City Hall  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 2R7

January 10, 2010

Dear Council Members,

K.O. Boxing Promotions has been promoting boxing events as well as Mixed Martial Art events, under the name The Fight Club, for over 20 years in the City of Champions. The majority of our events are televised nationally on Sportsnet Television, and they are all held at Edmonton's prestigious Shaw Conference Centre. Over these 20 years we have worked together with the Edmonton Boxing Commission, and recently the Edmonton Combative Sport Commission to build professional boxing, and MMA in our city. Recently, we have become very concerned in the direction that the City is taking, regarding the Bi-laws and Regulations governing the sport in Edmonton, but most of all, in our opinion, your newly appointed Executive Director, Mr. Pat Reid, is incompetent and therefore unable to perform his duties in a professional manner. Our concerns with Mr. Reid are as follows:

1. Mr. Reid has no experience what so ever in professional boxing or Mixed Martial Arts. To do this job, you must have the experience, and the knowledge on how the business works.
  
2. Mr. Reid has attempted to make matches (who should fight who). This is not the business of the Executive Director. If a promoter fails to put good fights together, people will stop coming, and the Promoter is out of business.
  
3. Due to our requirements by Sportsnet, TSN (national television), and the Shaw Conference Centre, we must book our events 12 months in advance. The Commission has always been aware of this, and we have never cancelled an event. We have submitted our 2010 events with our permit fees, and now we have been informed that all dates are up in the air. Our business does not operate like this, and we have never had a problem in the past, until Mr. Reid came about.

4. We were informed by Mr. Reid, that the Commission did not want to put shows on in January of 2010. To cooperate with the Commission, we moved our date out of January to February 13. As soon as we did this we see that Mr. Reid allowed competing Promoters to book events on January 8, 2010 and January 22, 2010. His approach is inconsistent, and we require a fair and consistent approach from the Commission and its Executive Director.

5. Mr. Reid is well aware that prior to the marketing of any event a Promoter must be licensed by the Commission. There are Promoters in Edmonton who are marketing future events in Edmonton, who have yet to receive a Promoters license.

6. Members of the public, the Commission, and K.O. Boxing all witnessed Mr. Reid consuming several alcoholic drinks at an event while on duty as the Executive Director. Mr. Mark Grotsky, also a member of the Commission, was also drinking. We understand that a formal complaint was sent to David Aitken (City of Edmonton) and it was dismissed. I can assure you, and I can bring several witnesses that will verify this. What does the City do when their representatives, while working an event as a supervisor, drink on the job? We can assure you that several witnesses can be brought forward who will verify this fact. Combative sports can be a dangerous game, and you must have your wits about you at all times. I will note that all other Commission members, including the Technical Director, Mr. Zmyndak abstained from any alcoholic beverages.

7. In the vast majority of cases combatants in our sport are suspended for periods of 14 days up to 12 months after competing in an event. This is to protect the safety of the fighter, or ensure that the fighter(s) are competitive. On January 8, 2010 Mr. Reid sanctioned a fight between Adam Trupish and Etianne Whitaker. Whitaker, without throwing a punch, managed to survive for a total of 39 seconds. The problem is Whitaker was under suspension by the Pennsylvania Boxing Commission. No one is allowed to fight in Edmonton if they are suspended by another Commission. Mr. Reid did not do his homework. It is the Executive Director's duty to ensure that there are no fighters under suspension. Furthermore, Mr. Reid, and the Commission failed to check if Whitaker even had a Federal ID number. It is mandatory, throughout North America that any American fighter must have a Federal ID number. The Federal ID number is to make sure that the fighter in question is in fact who he says he is, and is still in good standing. Without a Federal ID number the dishwasher from Caesars Palace could be fighting Adam Trupish. Does Mr. Reid even know what a Federal ID number is? The Federal ID system introduced by Senator John McCain was put in place to not only protect the fighters, but as well to protect the general public from scams. In failing to do his due diligence Mr. Reid has potentially put the fighter's safety in jeopardy. But how would Mr. Reid know this? He has no experience.

8. We understand that Mr. Reid reduced the minimum suspension from 14 days to 7 days. This could have certain ramifications for the safety of the fighters. Did Mr. Reid make this decision on his own? Does not the Commission make such serious decisions regarding medical

issues and the safety of the fighters? Does Mr. Reid have a medical background? Most importantly does not the Executive Director implement decisions made by the Commission as a whole? He is not to act alone. This is very concerning

9. It has been in the bylaws for years that the Promoter is to give to the Commission 20 complimentary tickets. Commission members are volunteers, and we appreciate their efforts. We understand that Mr. Reid acted alone, and eliminated this tradition. Once again is Mr. Reid acting alone? Or is he consulting with the Commission, and following the bi-laws? Do we even need a Commission, or should we allow Mr. Reid with his very limited knowledge of the sport run the whole thing?

10. We are very concerned about the process in which the new Commission members were appointed, as well as how the Executive Director was chosen. We understand that a hiring committee was appointed by the Commission which included three (3) Commission members, and Mr. David Aitken of The City of Edmonton. All three (3) Commission members were in favour of appointing Mr. Orest Zmyndak. However, we understand that Mr. Aitken arbitrarily chose Mr. Reid. Why was a hiring committee even established if one man is going to make the decision. What process was used to select these Commission members? We understand that Mr. Reid has had a personal and possible past working relationship with these new appointees. We would like this clarified. It looks like the Commission was stacked with Mr. Reid's chosen few. Is this the normal process that the City of Edmonton utilizes to appoint members to a Commission? It doesn't seem fair to the tax paying citizens of Edmonton and in taking this approach many qualified individuals are unable to get on to this hand picked Commission. To our knowledge these new appointees come from an amateur background in wrestling, ju-jitsu, etc. and lack any legitimate experience in professional MMA and boxing. Furthermore, a newly appointed member of the Commission is a wrestling coach, who has coached some of the fighters who are now professional combatants. We understand that the existing bylaws do not allow a current coach to be on the Commission. As well, the newly appointed Chairman of the Commission Mr. Vang Ionnades, the Athletic Director at the University of Alberta, is in fact the boss of the coach. You can rest assured that the coach will be highly influenced on how he votes on which way his boss leans.

These are only a few of our concerns. It seems to us that the Edmonton Combative Sport Commission is being run by an Executive Director and newly appointed Commission members who have no experience in professional boxing or mixed martial arts. It also seems that the Executive Director is a one man show, who is arbitrarily making decisions based on a lack of knowledge and expertise. Does the Executive Director not answer to the Edmonton Combative Sport Commission? What is the purpose of the Commission? If the Commission is simply to play yes man to Mr. Reid, and Mr. Reid is to play yes man to Mr. David Aitken we might as well simply report to Mayor Mandell.

A perfect example is this sweeping under the table of the issue of alcohol consumption at an event by a Commission member and a City employee. Is anyone accountable for their actions?

You can rest assured that K.O. Boxing Promotions, The Fight Club, and as we understand many other Edmonton Promotion companies, will not sit still and witness the demise of our sport in Edmonton. Our livelihoods are dependent on our ability to successfully promote our events. K.O. has promoted the City of Edmonton through our televised events across North America for over 20 years, and we will continue to do so. We have no problem working with a knowledgeable Commission in fact we have gone toe-to-toe with past Commissions winning on some issues and losing on others. We do not quite understand why the City of Edmonton did not appoint Orest Zmyndak as the Executive Director. He is knowledgeable, experienced, and was tough but fair in his dealings with all promoters in the City of Edmonton. He is a good man. We understand that City Council will be presented with new bylaws in the very near future. First of all we do not believe that the Commission has had adequate time to review these changes, and if in fact if these changes have been passed by the Commission they were railroaded in by Mr. Reid and Mr. Aitken using a Commission who has no experience, and is intimidated by their lack of knowledge. The promoter's of Edmonton have never been consulted on these changes. It would seem reasonable that the City of Edmonton would consult in a serious matter with the experts in the sport. We are asking all City Council members to refrain from passing any new bylaws until a full review of the process has taken place. The sport can exist and continue operating on the old bylaws until the new ones are put into place. This would ensure that proper consultation takes place, experienced individuals are appointed as Commission members, and a performance review takes place on the existing Executive Director.

You may contact K.O. Boxing at 780.421.4551

Thank you  
Sincerely,

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Glen F. Carriere  
K.O. Boxing Promotions

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Milan Lubovac  
K.O. Boxing Promotions

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Mark Sinclair  
The Fight Club Promotions