



CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2012
Ronald Reagan State Building
Auditorium
300 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Commissioners Present:

Chairman John Frierson
Commissioner Dr. Van Buren Lemons
Commissioner Linda Forster

Vice Chairman Eugene Hernandez
Commissioner Mike Munoz
Commissioner Brian Edwards

Commissioners Absent:

Dr. Christopher Giza

Staff Present:

George Dodd, Executive Officer
Anita Scuri, DCA Legal
Karen Chappelle, Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Kathi Burns, Assistant Executive Officer

The minutes reflect the order in which the agenda items were heard.

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

A quorum was present.

Agenda Item 2. Determination of Need for Special Meeting

The Commission finds that immediate action on this item is required to protect the public interest. Without such a meeting, the Commission is prevented from evaluating the professional mixed martial artist application of Joshua Barnett in time for California to host an event where Mr. Barnett is scheduled to fight. California has an interest in hosting this event for the potential benefit it would have to the state, as well as the hosting city and surrounding community where the event is to be held. The event is scheduled for May 19th and the Commission's next meeting is not until April 9th. This does not allow the promoter and television sponsor enough time to sell tickets and advertise; therefore without this meeting, the event would be moved from California.

It was Moved (Hernandez)/Seconded (Forster)/Carried (M/S/C) that this meeting met the requirements of Government Code section 11125.4(c).

Agenda Item 3. License Application after Denial

a. Joshua Barnett

Anita Scuri explained the Commission's authority to consider the licensing application of Mr. Barnett and that the burden of proof lies with Mr. Barnett to prove his fitness for licensure.

Karen Chappelle, Deputy Attorney General, was present and represented the Commission. She presented a chronology of Mr. Barnett's history, stated that the Commission was considering a new application from Mr. Barnett, that he has met the requirements for licensure, and is before the Commission at this time to demonstrate why he should be granted licensure. She further stated that his license had previously been denied due to testing positive for using steroids and she explained the appropriateness of using the rehabilitation criteria recently established by the Commission, and currently pending final regulatory effect, to evaluate Mr. Barnett's eligibility for licensure.

Joshua Barnett was present and represented by Jeffrey Spitz. Mr. Barnett was put under oath and addressed the Commission, stating his reasons for wanting to fight in California, how he has been rehabilitated since testing positive for steroids and why he would never use steroids in the future.

The Commission listened to and considered the information and evidence presented and asked questions of both parties.

It was M (Frierson)/S (Forster)/C (4 yes/2 no (Hernandez and Munoz)) to grant Mr. Barnett a California license as a professional mixed martial artist under the condition that he submits to random biological fluid testing with the timing of such tests to be at the discretion of commission staff.

Agenda Item 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment given.

Adjourned