



Members of the Commission

John Frierson, Chair  
Eugene Hernandez, Vice-Chair  
VanBuren Lemons, MD  
Christopher Giza, MD  
Mike Munoz  
Dean Grafilo  
Linda Forster

**CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 26, 2012  
12:00 p.m.

1180 Durfee Avenue  
South El Monte, CA 91733

**Commissioners Present:**

Chairman John Frierson  
VanBuren Lemons, MD  
Linda Forster

Vice Chairman Eugene Hernandez  
Mike Munoz  
Dean Grafilo

**Commissioners Absent:**

Christopher Giza, MD

**Staff Present:**

George Dodd, Executive Officer  
Michael Santiago, Senior Staff Counsel-DCA  
Elizabeth Parkman, Program Analyst

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**Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was present. Commissioner Munoz joined via teleconference from Chicago, IL.

**Agenda Item 2 - Budget Update**

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), Budget Analyst, Brian Skewis, advised the Commission members of the current status of the Commission's budget and reviewed past trends indicating that the Commission historically spends more money than it brings in. Additionally, he explained that the Commission's revenue

projections have continuously been higher than the actual revenue received. He provided statistical data referencing fiscal years 2007/08 – 2012/13. Mr. Skewis indicated that at this time, it appeared that the Commission would become insolvent by the end of this fiscal year.

Commissioner Munoz asked what had changed since the June 4, 2012 meeting and this meeting, since concern for insolvency was not brought up in June. Mr. Skewis explained that more information and detailed projections from Commission staff had been analyzed since the June meeting.

Executive Officer, George Dodd, explained that he had requested help from the DCA when he first began as Executive Officer. He recounted the history of the Commission's revenue and expenditures since the time he was appointed. He explained that he did not receive any assistance from DCA.

### **Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment and Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda**

Awet Kidane, Chief Deputy Director of DCA addressed the fiscal conditions of the Commission, explaining that the DCA is ready to aid upon the request of the Commission. He and Director Brown have selected a team of experts to bring this fund solvent. Mr. Kidane expressed that through 18 meetings with the Commission staff; no help was produced, nor was it requested until mid-June. Mr. Kidane stated that he had been communicating with the Executive Officer and believed Mr. Dodd was informing the Commissioners of the status of the budget.

Legal counsel, Michael Santiago, stated that if the Commission wished to accept the DCA's offer of assistance, a motion would need to be made. He advised that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be included in all decisions regarding any changes or actions affecting the Commission.

Chairman Frierson expressed concern that 18 meetings were held between the Commission staff and the DCA and none of the Commissioners knew about it. The DCA should have contacted them to advise them of the position they were in. Until the Commissioners received the letter from Director Brown they had no idea the Commission's budget was in such dire straits.

Dr. Lemons recommended that the DCA's offer of fiscal assistance be decided after closed session.

Promoter's Roy Englebrecht, Robert Diaz, Tom Brown and Alex Capanova of Thompson Boxing all made statements in support of keeping Mr. Dodd as the Executive Officer. They stated that he keeps his ego in check and works with the promoters to see how he can work with them. Fights have been brought to California because of Mr. Dodd. To place blame for the fiscal crisis of the Commission on Mr. Dodd would be irresponsible as this has been an on-going problem for several years.

Athletic Inspectors and Officials also gave public comment about the positive changes brought to the Commission by Mr. Dodd.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Agenda Item 4 - Continued Employment of the Executive Officer**

See #6 below – Report from Closed Session.

**Agenda Item 5 - Appointment of an Acting or Interim Executive Officer**

Not applicable

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda Item 6 - Report from Closed Session**

Open session began at 2:21 p.m.

Chairman Frierson thanked everyone who attended for their input on this situation and advised that he tried to make everyone happy though he believes that will not ever be the case. He asked Vice-Chairman Hernandez to read the decision. The following five points were decided:

- Censure the Executive Officer regarding the budget
- Require Mr. Dodd to work closely with the DCA to oversee the Fiscal Year 2012/13 budget
- Evaluate Mr. Dodd's performance in 3 months
- The Commission retains the right to terminate Mr. Dodd's employment
- A three month probation report on Mr. Dodd will be given

**Agenda Item 7 - Process for Selection of New Executive Officer**

Not applicable.

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.