

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:            )  
  )  
BOARD BUSINESS                )  
  )  
  )  
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Given before Robin K. Reibold, Certified Verbatim Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina, commencing at 10:13 a.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at the office of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina.

Reported by:  
Robin K. Reibold

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## SC ATHLETIC COMMISSION 4/30/2019

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## APPEARANCES:

Committee Members Present:

Edwin M. Estridge, Chairman

Coleman Bates

William J. D'Andrea

James D. Vaught - via telephone

Paul H. Kennemore - via telephone

William L. McCullough - Special Advisor to the Board

Advising the Committee:

Robert E. Horner, Esquire

SC Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation

Office of General Counsel

110 Centerview Drive

PO Box 11329

Columbia, SC 29211-1329

Also Present:

Eric Thompson, Board Administrator

Sandy Dickerson, LLR Staff

Renee Young, LLR Staff

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1 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: This meeting is called to order.  
2 Public notice of this meeting was properly  
3 posted at the South Carolina Athletic  
4 Commission office, Synergy Business Park,  
5 Kingstree Building, and on the commission  
6 website, and provided to any requesting  
7 persons, organizations, or news media in  
8 compliance with 30-4-80 of the South Carolina  
9 Freedom of Information Act. The first order of  
10 business is the approval of the agenda. Does  
11 everyone have a copy of the agenda?

12 COMMISSION: (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Does anyone need a copy? Hearing  
14 none, are there any motions to approve the  
15 agenda?

16 MR. D'ANDREA: I make a motion to approve the agenda.

17 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Bill has made a motion to approve  
18 the agenda. Any seconds?

19 MR. BATES: I second the motion.

20 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: That's Coleman, second the motion.  
21 All those in favor?

22 COMMISSION: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Any opposed?

24 COMMISSION: (No response.)

25 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Motion passed. Moving on to the

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1 approval of all unexcused absences. We're  
2 missing two today, Dr. Bill Phillips and Ms.  
3 Pam Shealey. Is there a motion in regards to  
4 Dr. Phillips' absence?

5 DR. VAUGHT: This is Dillon. Was there any reason as  
6 to why?

7 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: I do not have that information,  
8 no. No word from Dr. Phillips.

9 DR. VAUGHT: This is Dillon. I make a motion to not  
10 excuse his absence.

11 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: We have a motion to not excuse Dr.  
12 Phillips' absence. Is there a second?

13 MR. D'ANDREA: I'll second.

14 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Second, thank you. All those in  
15 favor, aye?

16 COMMISSION: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Any opposed? Hearing none, the  
18 motion carries. Also approval, unexcused  
19 absence, Ms. Pam Shealey Wright. Is there a  
20 motion to Ms. Shealey's absence?

21 MR. D'ANDREA: I'll make a motion to not excuse Ms.  
22 Shealey.

23 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: We have a motion. Is here a  
24 second?

25 MR. BATES: I second the motion.

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1 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: We have a second. All those in  
2 favor?

3 COMMISSION: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Any opposed?

5 COMMISSION: (No response.)

6 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Motion carries. So unexcused  
7 absence, that's the only two we're missing,  
8 correct?

9 MR. HORNER: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. We'll move on to the  
11 approval of minutes. I think everyone has been  
12 provided these as well, either via email or  
13 paper copy. Does everyone have a copy of the  
14 minutes from the previous -- they are long.  
15 Give everybody a few minutes to look through it  
16 and make sure. Is there a motion as to the  
17 approval of the minutes?

18 DR. VAUGHT: This is Dillon. I'll make a motion to  
19 approve the minutes.

20 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Thank you, Dillon. Is there a  
21 second?

22 MR. D'ANDREA: This is Bill. I make a --

23 DR. KENNEMORE: This is Hamp. I second.

24 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: All those in favor?

25 COMMISSION: Aye.

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1 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Any opposed?

2 COMMISSION: (No response.)

3 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: The motion passes for approval of  
4 the minutes. Moving right along to the  
5 chairperson's remarks. That would be me, and I  
6 know some of you guys are as surprised as I am  
7 to see me sitting right here. So, that being  
8 said, I'm going to pass on my remarks and we're  
9 going to move on down the agenda and let things  
10 explain itself. Next we have Will McCullough.

11 MR. McCULLOUGH: Well, hello. So, thank you, Mr.  
12 Chairperson, and thank you, staff, for allowing  
13 me this opportunity to have some remarks on the  
14 agenda today. I'm not normally much for  
15 written stuff as far as statements. I like to  
16 shoot from the hip. In this case I thought I'd  
17 just share some info with y'all right quick.  
18 About five and a half years ago I was appointed  
19 for a period of four years to the South  
20 Carolina State Athletic Commission, by then-  
21 Governor Nikki Haley. It doesn't take a lot of  
22 difficult math to recognize that I've been  
23 serving on a bit of borrowed time, and it was  
24 inevitable that the new governor would  
25 eventually fill my technically-expired seat

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1 from the 1st Congressional District. And that  
2 has indeed come to pass. After three  
3 consecutive terms serving as the chairman of  
4 this commission, I wanted each and every member  
5 of the South Carolina fighting community to  
6 know that it has been an absolute honor  
7 serving, having the opportunity to serve y'all.  
8 I'm also very proud of what all of us as a  
9 board and as LLR staff have been able to  
10 accomplish over the last several years. We  
11 strove to create a safer environment for  
12 fighting sports in our state, to reduce cost  
13 for licensees while simultaneously increasing  
14 revenue and minimizing needless bureaucracy and  
15 regulation; and we've seen, via the LFA event  
16 last year, our first ever nationally televised  
17 MMA event. We've also been the first state  
18 ever in the Union to sanction two-on-two MMA  
19 events. We're one of the first states to vote  
20 to adopt the new unified rules of MMA. And  
21 we'll soon be hosting not only our first ever  
22 King of the Cage event, but also in June our  
23 first ever UFC event here in South Carolina.  
24 Bottom line, after many years of hard work  
25 South Carolina is finally on the map as it

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1 relates to the professional combat sports  
2 world, and I'm very excited to see where we as  
3 a state will grow from here. But while our  
4 accomplishments over the last several years are  
5 many, there is one that matters to me  
6 personally above all others. I believe that we  
7 have succeeded in becoming a board that  
8 listens. One that nurtures and encourages open  
9 dialogue, debate and discussion with the  
10 fighting community that we serve via these  
11 forums and recognize that we are here to serve,  
12 not to be served. South Carolina now finds  
13 itself poised on the edge of great things in  
14 the combat sports arena, and we have everyone  
15 in this room and many that aren't here with us  
16 today, not just board members or LLR staff, but  
17 more so the fighters, promoters, officials and  
18 other licensees, to thank for their open and  
19 honest feedback over the years. I may not  
20 personally have always agreed with everyone in  
21 this room or on any given topic or ultimately  
22 made a decision that you've agreed with, but  
23 please know that I've always done my best to  
24 listen, to weigh different perspectives, and to  
25 make the best personal decisions my conscience

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1 would allow. Now, over the last -- over the  
2 last time that I've been on the board, so like  
3 I say, over five years now -- I'll be coming  
4 into my sixth year, on a four-year term --  
5 during that same period of time we've seen a  
6 total of eight different people fill various  
7 administrative roles in that time. Over the  
8 course of just the last several months we lost  
9 our most recent administrator before Eric, we  
10 lost Sym Singh, who was very proactive in the -  
11 - I'm not taking away from Eric, by the way,  
12 I'm just saying we've had a list of folks over  
13 the course of the last six or seven months who  
14 have departed their service to the board. Sym  
15 Singh was a great administrator, now he's moved  
16 on to greener pastures. We lost our very  
17 outspoken and articulate vice chair, Derek  
18 Shoemake, who was not only a great communicator  
19 and had a love of the fighting sports, but a  
20 brilliant legal mind. So we lost him. Just  
21 last week we lost Charlie, who has been serving  
22 and assisting the administrator. And that's a  
23 blow to the commission as far a things working  
24 logistically. Bob over here as legal counsel  
25 has been doing a great job, but he has stepped

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1 in over the most recent months to replace  
2 Hardwick Stuart, Wick Stuart, who was for many,  
3 many years our legal counsel. All of those  
4 individuals, and several others who have  
5 departed over time, have been part of the  
6 conversation that's taken place now for many  
7 years of ongoing things going on with this  
8 commission. Things that people have come in  
9 and presented about, topics that we've debated  
10 and discussed, they were part of those  
11 conversations. It's not the Will McCullough  
12 show. It's not -- it was never meant to be  
13 that. But I, just by logistics, am the only  
14 person remaining of that core of folks who were  
15 part of those decisions for quite some time. I  
16 accepted this appointment because I really  
17 wanted to serve both the state that I love and  
18 the fighting community that I love, that's been  
19 so good to me. It would be a travesty I  
20 believe to just leave that blind at this time.  
21 And because of that, and in discussions with  
22 the board, I called -- well, I'm technically no  
23 longer a board member. But while I was still  
24 chair a few weeks ago, I called -- knowing that  
25 this was coming and in the works, I called a

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1 special meeting of the board and I made the  
2 following -- this has already passed, but I  
3 wanted to at least put it -- I don't think it  
4 was recorded on that day, so I wanted to put it  
5 on the public record and explain to the  
6 fighting community what happened. So I made a  
7 motion -- we had a special meeting to discuss  
8 this topic specifically, and I made the  
9 following motion which subsequently passed.  
10 And I'll just read it to you verbatim. I would  
11 like once again to clarify, I'm not making this  
12 motion now; we're going back in time, so just  
13 pretend. "I'd like to make a motion that we as  
14 a board create a special advisor to the board  
15 position. This special advisor would attend  
16 meetings and provide guidance, opinion and  
17 advice directly to the board leading up to  
18 events, as well as observing events on sites  
19 for the purpose of being -- to report back to  
20 the board with suggestions on potential changes  
21 that the board may wish to implement to improve  
22 safety, service and logistical procedures. The  
23 special advisor must be a willing private  
24 individual, with a preference for previous  
25 experience serving as a board member of the

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1 South Carolina State Athletic Commission, and  
2 will be appointed by the board via a majority  
3 vote. The special advisor will conduct  
4 themselves under the same ethical standards at  
5 events and meetings as would an active board  
6 member and will hold no authority over staff,  
7 licensees or board members. This position will  
8 be voluntary and completely fiscally  
9 uncompensated. The term of this specific  
10 position is one calendar year, and this term  
11 begins upon appointment date. The position may  
12 be extended for additional one-year terms by a  
13 majority vote of the board." That was  
14 subsequently voted and passed. Then Dr. Dillon  
15 Vaught made a follow-up motion. He motioned  
16 that, "I would like to move that should current  
17 board chair Will McCullough cease serving on  
18 the board between now and our meeting scheduled  
19 for August 13th, 2019, that he will be  
20 appointed to the special advisor to the board  
21 position effective August 12th, 2019, or upon  
22 the date of his cessation of service to the  
23 board, whichever date is earlier." So that has  
24 come to pass. So I personally am no longer a  
25 board member, I am no longer the chair; I am

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1 now the special advisor to the board. I want  
2 to make it clear while I have this opportunity  
3 to do so, that that is not in any way intended  
4 to be a de facto board position, even though  
5 I'm just sitting up here at this moment. Nor  
6 is it to be kind of controlling the strings and  
7 do a puppet -- it's none of that. It's to do  
8 everything that I can in my own little personal  
9 service to this state and the fighting  
10 community in making sure that the things that  
11 we have talked about in the past, there is a  
12 live memory of them that can be discussed and  
13 assist. And also, because of my experience in  
14 the fighting sports and as the chair, to  
15 provide guidance and opinions as we move  
16 forward, but to have no authority. So to make  
17 that clear, I'm not voting, I'm not -- and we  
18 didn't mention this, but I was asking counsel,  
19 if there is a scenario where we go in to  
20 executive session or something like that, I  
21 don't -- I think that if there is any input  
22 that I ever have the opportunity to make to the  
23 board, that it is as a result of being asked  
24 for it. And then if there is ever something --  
25 so I'm not an active participant in the

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1 meeting, but if you say, "Hey, Will, what about  
2 this?" I'll give that opinion. And then  
3 furthermore, if there's a scenario where  
4 there's executive session or something like  
5 that, that's not me. That is the board.  
6 Anything that I ever have to say to the board  
7 is in the open. It's not a private thing.  
8 That being said, there are avenues that will  
9 allow me to potentially come back on as a board  
10 member. But as most of us know, the wheels of  
11 government moves slow. I am actively pursuing  
12 that. Whether or not it will come to that  
13 remains to be seen. But know that it's  
14 important to me to have that opportunity to  
15 continue to serve should it be allowed by our  
16 current governor. And none of that, none of  
17 that should take away from our new board member  
18 from the 1st Congressional District, Mr.  
19 Coleman Bates, who I would like to be the first  
20 to publically welcome. He came in here. He's  
21 got a lot of enthusiasm. He's excited about  
22 going to events. He's got a good head on his  
23 shoulders, and I'd like to be the first person  
24 to welcome him to the board. So welcome,  
25 Coleman, it's great to have you here. And with

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1           that, I'm going to shut up.

2           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, now that that kind of clears  
3           everything up, you guys will have to bear with  
4           me a little bit as I muddle through this.  
5           Because this is my first time doing this here,  
6           so.

7           MR. D'ANDREA: Mr. Chairman?

8           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yes, sir?

9           MR. D'ANDREA: First of all, we'd like to welcome you  
10          as the new chairman. But I just want to echo a  
11          little bit of what Will has said. I do think  
12          his passion, his experience, and just his  
13          professionalism that he's brought to this  
14          committee, he certainly would bring consistency  
15          and his experience and some of the policies and  
16          whatnot. And if you'll look at the direction  
17          we have gone as an athletic commission, I think  
18          it's -- a lot of it is attributed to his  
19          leadership. My question is, you would not be  
20          able to serve as a special advisor and be on  
21          the board as well?

22          MR. McCULLOUGH: To answer your question, no. The  
23          special advisor position was --

24          MR. D'ANDREA: It'd be one or the other --

25          MR. McCULLOUGH: -- created to allow an opportunity

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1 MR. D'ANDREA: Okay.

2 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- to give opinion and guidance  
3 based on that experience, but without any  
4 authority. If at some point I am allowed the  
5 opportunity by the current governor to come  
6 back on the board, then that would cease. I  
7 would, I would --

8 MR. D'ANDREA: Well, maybe --

9 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- step away from that position. But  
10 because that position was created, another --

11 MR. D'ANDREA: Yeah, person could step in there.

12 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- person could fill that. And I  
13 think that that's maybe a good path for smooth  
14 transitions in the future in a comparable  
15 scenario.

16 MR. D'ANDREA: You answered my question.

17 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: And thank you for everything that  
18 you've done. I don't want you to think that we  
19 don't appreciate everything that you have done  
20 in the past. I guess I'm kind of new, so I  
21 didn't prepare a speech for you. But --

22 MR. McCULLOUGH: Thank you, Mack. It's the fighters  
23 that are important, so we just want things to  
24 keep going smooth for them.

25 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, we will trudge on then.



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1 Next on the agenda, Administrator's Remarks.  
2 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, we'll  
3 cover the budget. I sent a copy, and it is  
4 also in the hard form for you guys before you.  
5 Our beginning balance was about \$438,507.47.  
6 We had -- total revenue taken in was  
7 \$115,446.45. We had direct expenditures of  
8 \$45,690.33. And as you know, we are currently  
9 running a net deficit, bringing a year-to-date  
10 of \$368,814.35. This is a different format  
11 than what you've seen previously. We have a  
12 new member down in finance, and he basically  
13 gave the breakdown of our direct expenditures  
14 as to what actually was paid out. Everything  
15 down to materials, supplies, travel, etcetera.  
16 So this is the accurate report as of today. In  
17 addition to the budget, we currently have about  
18 1086 licensees. Back in December everybody  
19 ended that was licensed prior to November. We  
20 had to do some cleaning up. And I told the  
21 previous chair that we would have a more  
22 accurate number, and that number today is 1086  
23 licensees in athletics. As you can see, we do  
24 have a vacancy in our program coordinator  
25 position. That position has been posted. That

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1 position will close on May 5th. The previous  
2 coordinator decided to go back into the  
3 restaurant business, so. He said he wanted to  
4 give us a year, he gave us a year, and so he  
5 went back into the restaurant business. So we  
6 have a vacancy there. In terms of upcoming  
7 events, May 11th we have the King of the Cage  
8 is coming to North Augusta. On June 15th we  
9 will have boxing here at Jamil Temple. That  
10 will be Stokes Production. Of course, June  
11 22nd we will have the UFC up in Greenville.  
12 And July 13, and I'm thinking that's probably  
13 far enough to go for now, July 13 we will have  
14 boxing down in Charleston. So we've got two  
15 boxing and two MMA events coming up in the next  
16 two, three months.

17 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Fantastic.

18 MR. THOMPSON: As far as the OIE and the IRC report,  
19 there was no report. I forwarded to what the  
20 chief -- I think he stepped in and out -- but  
21 that we didn't have anything to present to the  
22 IRC, and there was no OIE report as well as the  
23 ODC. So we haven't had any cases to bring  
24 forth, so.

25 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay.

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1 MR. THOMPSON: No report on any of those.

2 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: No news is good news sometimes on  
3 that.

4 MR. THOMPSON: But before closing, and if I'm in order  
5 -- I just want to make sure -- speaking with  
6 the chair, you said that you may have to leave  
7 the country. And so now that we've got  
8 everybody on, we have an event that's going to  
9 be coming up in a week and a half, so I would  
10 need to forward that fight card to someone,  
11 either you or your proxy.

12 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yeah, I have to leave the country  
13 for just a little while, so the fight cards  
14 that come up and have to be approved, I would  
15 like to ask -- I hate to put him on the spot --  
16 Hamp, I know you're on the phone, I think you  
17 have the most seniority on the board. If you  
18 would take on those and speak --

19 DR. KENNEMORE: Yes, that's fine. Yeah, I can do  
20 that, Mack.

21 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: -- and speak with Will and work  
22 that out in my absence. And I apologize to  
23 throw that on you as well.

24 DR. KENNEMORE: Mack?

25 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yes, sir? Hamp, you there?

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1 DR. VAUGHT: I think they might have muted it.

2 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: There you go. Okay. So if you're  
3 good with that, you know -- and if you're not,  
4 that's okay, we'll work around it; but I hate  
5 to put you on the spot. But if you're good  
6 with that, I'm going to leave that in your  
7 hands.

8 MR. THOMPSON: I'll reach out to you. I'll reach out  
9 to him. That concludes the administrator  
10 remarks.

11 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: All right. Well, we'll move on to  
12 New Business. It looks like we have lots of  
13 new business. Upcoming Events, Discussion,  
14 Board Members Attending. I think we've covered  
15 the upcoming events, you covered that.

16 MR. THOMPSON: No, the special advisor would like to  
17 address some of those issues.

18 (Telephone connection lost.)

19 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Back to where we were. We're on  
20 New Business. We were waiting for Will to  
21 rejoin us, and we will move along. Here he  
22 comes now. We got the phone working. We are  
23 back to business.

24 MR. McCULLOUGH: So, Mr. Chair, I believe that you had  
25 mentioned upcoming events as the next thing,

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1 and I thank you again for allowing me the  
2 opportunity to talk about this. So we have  
3 lots of upcoming events, but the one  
4 specifically that, with your permission, I'd  
5 just like to offer some thoughts on --

6 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yes, please.

7 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- is the upcoming UFC on June 22nd.  
8 A couple of weeks ago Matt Woodruff, who is the  
9 executive director of the Georgia -- sorry, I'm  
10 out of breath. I ran when I heard the -- all  
11 right, I'm ready. He's the executive director  
12 of the Georgia commission. They just had a UFC  
13 event in Atlanta a couple of weeks back, and he  
14 was kind enough to reach out both to myself and  
15 to Eric and invite us to come down and attend  
16 and observe that UFC cage-side, see everything  
17 backstage and see how it all ran. Really kind  
18 invitation. We have a lot of experience of  
19 course in our own regional and local events,  
20 but just -- you can't really appreciate the  
21 scale of that event until you're there and see  
22 it, and they really run a tight ship. I mean,  
23 it's a big, big production. And it was  
24 invaluable to have that opportunity to observe  
25 it firsthand and kind of walk through with

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1 Georgia, how they were doing everything. And  
2 myself and staff have already had, you know,  
3 meetings about that to discuss some details. I  
4 just want to mention a couple of things that  
5 came up of it because -- well, one, just some  
6 takeaways: One, whoever attends, like if you're  
7 a board member and you are going to be  
8 attending that event to observe, they are going  
9 to get you a set of credentials in advance.  
10 One thing you do not want to do -- I know Eric  
11 is going to cover this with staff, but my  
12 recommendation to you is to make sure if you're  
13 attending that event and they give you  
14 credentials, do not take a picture of those  
15 credentials and then post them on your social  
16 media. That is a very big negative and a great  
17 way for you to be invited to leave that event  
18 immediately. Last -- well, I won't go into too  
19 great of detail, but they had -- somebody did  
20 that at the Conor McGregor fight last summer,  
21 whenever it was, and they posted their  
22 credentials online. Some intuitive little kid  
23 online got on there, copied that, went  
24 backstage. You don't share your credentials on  
25 social media. I also recommend don't get

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1           inside the cage and try to take pictures. I  
2           mean, you're there to observe. So those are  
3           just things that we kind of do sometimes on  
4           regional shows. Do not take pictures of your  
5           credentials, do not share them on social media.  
6           Don't take pictures in the cage. There's going  
7           to be celebrities there. Don't hound them; I  
8           mean, just let them be. The only area -- and I  
9           had discussed this with Eric just to kind of  
10          share it for our own experience. They run such  
11          a tight ship themselves in how they do  
12          everything, the only area where the commission  
13          was really put under pressure was the  
14          tabulating of scores in between rounds. So in  
15          between each round they are coming around  
16          really quick and taking a picture of that score  
17          card and see how the judges scored it. And as  
18          soon as the bout is over they want to know that  
19          result because they are running on a timeline.  
20          So they are going to be standing over Eric's  
21          shoulder trying to get the scores -- we've  
22          already discussed that, but that was a good  
23          takeaway from it and how that goes out.  
24          Something else that I had mentioned to Eric and  
25          just to kind of put out there, especially with

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1 legal counsel here, that you might want to talk  
2 about, is if there is a stoppage by a referee,  
3 if a referee stops --

4 (Reporter clarification.)

5 MR. McCULLOUGH: If a referee has a stoppage that in  
6 any way could be considered questionable, there  
7 may well be press that wants to know why that  
8 was stopped. I would suggest that you don't  
9 want press going and badgering a referee. Most  
10 certainly not during an event or after it. So  
11 what Matt Woodruff of Georgia had recommended,  
12 which we've passed on to Eric and we'd want to  
13 pass on to our officials, is if there is a bout  
14 that they stop for whatever reason, if the  
15 referee stops it, that that referee then  
16 immediately comes to staff, to Eric, and  
17 explains to Eric why that was stopped. So if  
18 somebody has to speak for the commission as to  
19 why this got stopped, it's not a referee; he's  
20 there trying to do his job.

21 MR. D'ANDREA: And that event is June 22nd in  
22 Greenville, right?

23 MR. McCULLOUGH: That event is June 22nd in  
24 Greenville. And I'll tell you something, now,  
25 I -- once again, not the Will McCullough show,



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1 but since coming on the board I've gone to as  
2 many events as I could possibly go to, and I  
3 can say I'm shocked that that doesn't happen  
4 more often with us. I mean, y'all have the  
5 opportunity to go to these, sit ringside, cage-  
6 side, and observe. And I think because so few  
7 of us have a background in combat sports stuff,  
8 that experience is invaluable. You know, not  
9 just the UFC events because it's a big thing,  
10 but go to these events. Because that's the  
11 chance to see what's going on and be able to  
12 then come back and help that create a  
13 foundation for the decisions that you're going  
14 to make. You know, it shouldn't be a scenario  
15 all the time where the folks that are out there  
16 asking for changes also have to kind of educate  
17 why those changes are needed. So I encourage  
18 everybody to go to the events. But one thing  
19 to note -- and I've had to learn this too as I  
20 started going to events -- when you're there as  
21 a board member, you're there to observe. Staff  
22 runs that show. You're not there to make  
23 decisions or to influence anything anyway.  
24 You're there to observe, in my opinion, to help  
25 better do this. So, you know, you're not there

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1 to make decisions for staff; let them do their  
2 thing. And on that, this was something we  
3 hadn't talked about but it occurred to me, and  
4 I wanted to mention this with legal counsel  
5 here, there is -- I know, I wrote it down,  
6 Section 30-4-70 and 30-4-20 of the South  
7 Carolina Code, it references about a quorum, or  
8 even the illusion of a quorum. So if you --  
9 and I'm just explaining this in my own layman  
10 way. My understanding, that if three -- if a  
11 quorum of board members gather somewhere and  
12 it's a potential for a discussion on a topic  
13 about which they're responsible for governing,  
14 that creates a meeting, a de facto meeting, or  
15 at least creates a potential or illusion of  
16 one. So when you talk about inviting board  
17 members and whatnot to this event, I would seek  
18 legal guidance from counsel on whether or not -  
19 - what constitutes a quorum and how that should  
20 be handled. If you've got four board members  
21 there and they're in a position to discuss that  
22 event, if there is a Freedom of Information  
23 thing, I mean that's essentially a de facto  
24 meeting in my layman's perspective. So just  
25 something to be aware of that y'all-- we don't

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1           have to solve that now. We -- not we, you  
2           don't have to solve that now, but --

3           MR. HORNER: You're correct.

4           MR. McCULLOUGH: Okay.

5           MR. HORNER: It's the same with emails. If a couple  
6           of you get together and only include four of  
7           you on a email, and you started talking about a  
8           certain topic and you all say, "Hey, I think  
9           this is a great idea, this is a great idea.  
10          This is a great idea, everybody thinks this is  
11          a great idea. Yeah, let's bring it up to the  
12          board," you've already established a quorum and  
13          voted on it on behalf of the board. Now, that  
14          quorum was established without the proper  
15          procedures through the Freedom of Information  
16          Act, but it's FOIA'ble. So somebody who wants  
17          to know your business can say show me all your  
18          emails dealing with a UFC event, and if you  
19          turn them over and voted on what flavor popcorn  
20          you were going to have, that becomes a  
21          violation of FOIA, it gets undone, we could be  
22          forced to pay the attorneys fees of whoever  
23          wanted to look into what we discussed outside  
24          of this proper forum. So you always have to be  
25          careful when you're chatting amongst any sort

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1 of business, board business, where you're going  
2 to end up taking a vote or deciding a course of  
3 action. So, for example, I may send all of  
4 y'all an email and it's about a legal issue and  
5 legally I will tell you that it's bound by  
6 attorney-client privilege, but you can only  
7 respond to me. I am the attorney, respond to  
8 me; when we get together at our regularly  
9 called hearing or special called hearing, we  
10 can then discuss the issue. Nobody has  
11 violated FOIA because that is all attorney-  
12 client protected. But merely because I am on  
13 an email and seven of you decide to vote that  
14 UFC participants have to wear green, at that  
15 point it becomes a real vote. It is taken out  
16 of the FOIA'ble context and it's an invalid  
17 vote, which there are ramifications of. So  
18 just like Will said, be careful of who your  
19 company is, what company you're keeping, and  
20 what discussions are undertaken.

21 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, how do we -- obviously with  
22 events coming up and we want the board members  
23 to attend and see these events firsthand and,  
24 you know, by trying to get more board members  
25 there, sooner or later you're going to have a

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1 quorum of members there to see a fight, any one  
2 fight. I mean, how does that --

3 MR. HORNER: Well, if you're just there observing on  
4 your own behalf and on behalf of the board and  
5 you're learning something, what you can't do is  
6 voice it out loud and have a de facto meeting  
7 with a vote involved.

8 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay.

9 MR. HORNER: You're free to make all the notes you  
10 want, and then next time y'all meet you say,  
11 "Hey, I've got these notes from last time,  
12 three of us were sitting at the meeting, four  
13 of us were sitting at the fight. I asked them  
14 all to take some notes on what they thought  
15 about particular issues, we combined our notes  
16 together, and this is what we'd like to put on  
17 the agenda to have the board discuss going  
18 forward."

19 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. So as long as they observe,  
20 note-taking, etcetera, etcetera, just as long  
21 as there is no discussion --

22 MR. HORNER: Or voting.

23 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Or voting.

24 MR. D'ANDREA: But we can discuss?

25 MR. HORNER: You can casually discuss it and say, wow,

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1 I didn't -- you know, that's a -- I didn't -- I  
2 never thought of that being a possibility, and  
3 then one of you writes down "Possibility that,"  
4 you know, we have --

5 MR. D'ANDREA: Okay. Just as long as we bring it back  
6 here?

7 MR. HORNER: Yeah. And then nothing happens out  
8 there, but everything happens in here. So Will  
9 is exactly right on that.

10 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, that's good to know and  
11 it's, you know, fortunate and unfortunate I  
12 guess that it could be an issue. But fortunate  
13 that it may put us in a quorum together at  
14 different events would be nice.

15 MR. McCULLOUGH: And if I may share one last thing on  
16 that same topic. I know when we had met with  
17 the UFC a month or so ago they mentioned about  
18 people and inviting and whatnot. I don't know  
19 the logistics of that or what's permitted or  
20 not permitted or what we may have; however,  
21 both former administrator Sym Singh and former  
22 vice chair Derek Shoemake were exceptionally  
23 positive and outgoing in their help of growth  
24 and eventually bringing this particular event.  
25 If there is an opportunity for us to invite

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1 someone to attend, it would be wonderful if the  
2 board was able to invite them, or staff was, to  
3 be at that event. However, if that's not  
4 possible, that's fine. I just wanted to put  
5 that out there in the public realm, that I  
6 think it would be an appropriate thing for them  
7 to be able to see the fruits of their labor.  
8 I'll be there working.

9 MR. THOMPSON: From what I gather from the meeting  
10 with UFC, that's their call, so. I mean, we'll  
11 start to nail that down a little bit. But we  
12 really don't have any leeway in that, that's  
13 all their -- that's on them.

14 MR. McCULLOUGH: Understood. I just wanted to put  
15 that out there.

16 MR. HORNER: There are ethics rules about accepting,  
17 you know, gifts over a certain value and the  
18 exceptions to that and all of that. And I can  
19 look into that just to double check in case all  
20 five, all six, all seven of you get invites or  
21 get, you know, comp seats or whatever the issue  
22 is, as to the legalities of that or whether or  
23 not you just need to reimburse it and have the  
24 State pay you back for whatever was involved.  
25 There are a lot of things I haven't had to run

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1           into with the nursing board. Nobody gets a  
2           free seat to an operation. But it's -- but  
3           it's something I can look into. Several people  
4           up here have had those issues.

5           MR. McCULLOUGH: If I may, on that specific topic,  
6           just because it comes up: As a board member,  
7           you know, I've traveled around the state and  
8           I've been to many of y'all's events, and I've  
9           always made it a policy as I'm there, I'm there  
10          to observe, when I was a board member. But my  
11          wife travels with me. So I would always make  
12          it a point of paying that promoter for that  
13          ticket for my spouse who was there with me. I  
14          don't know for the board members who may be  
15          attending this particular event if that's an  
16          option or not, but I could understand somebody  
17          being interested in doing that, six hours away,  
18          when they go observe this thing. So that may  
19          be something the board wants to at least look  
20          at, if a spouse would be with them or whatever.  
21          Not my business, but just putting it out there  
22          for thoughts, for whose business it is. And,  
23          Mr. Chair, I very much appreciate having that  
24          opportunity to run my mouth on that.

25          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Certainly. Any other board



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1 members, any other comments, questions,  
2 concerns in regards to that topic? Hearing  
3 none, we will move forward to five percent gate  
4 fees and a cap on fees.

5 MR. THOMPSON: That would be the special advisor  
6 again. Some of these discussions --

7 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, that's good, because I don't  
8 have a whole lot of discussion on this, so.

9 MR. THOMPSON: This came about from the UFC, so.

10 MR. McCULLOUGH: Well, what is our -- what is the  
11 commission's current -- can you frame that  
12 discussion insofar as why --

13 (Cross talk)

14 MR. THOMPSON: -- there was a cap on it, and so the  
15 question came up from Mr. Ratner about the five  
16 percent. And so I think Mr. Bryce (ph.) looked  
17 into it at the time, and then -- at the moment  
18 you just mentioned that we'd probably have a  
19 discussion to see if there was anything in  
20 there as far as leeway on the fees or whatever  
21 kind of -- because he asked the question, and  
22 we said it was a five percent cap. He was okay  
23 with it, but we were just saying that we were  
24 going to look at it.

25 MR. McCULLOUGH: If I may, because I think when that

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1 discussion took place I was personally ignorant  
2 of what our -- what our regula- -- not  
3 regulation, but what our policy is on that. Do  
4 you know what it is offhand?

5 MR. THOMPSON: Bob, can you go to that section --

6 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: I was going to ask the same thing  
7 because I have no idea.

8 MR. THOMPSON: -- that section of the regulation  
9 dealing with five percent gate fees?

10 MR. HORNER: Yeah.

11 MR. D'ANDREA: Do you happen to know what Georgia was?

12 MR. McCULLOUGH: I don't. No, I don't. The  
13 conversation came up and they asked about that,  
14 and I had mentioned it would probably be a good  
15 thing for us to talk about at the meeting, but  
16 I don't know what our current cap is. It may  
17 be something that the commission needs to table  
18 and do a little homework on and find out, I  
19 mean, just to answer the specific question,  
20 because it's not one that I personally can give  
21 guidance on.

22 MR. THOMPSON: I think in that conversation, it --  
23 five percent was pretty much clear; where the  
24 question really came in to was the TV.

25 MR. McCULLOUGH: Which, what is the commission --

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1           because that only came up with the LFA event we  
2           had last year, where there was a question about  
3           what cut of their TV stuff we get. I don't  
4           know, because this only ever happened once.

5           MR. THOMPSON: They are saying it was ten percent, and  
6           then there was some discussion that there was  
7           previous history that we -- or that the board  
8           or the commission voted not to.

9           MR. D'ANDREA: Not to take it?

10          MR. THOMPSON: Yeah. That's what the discussion was.

11          MR. McCULLOUGH: Well, I would guide that it would be  
12          prudent for us to look at what we did for the  
13          LFA event and make sure that that's documented  
14          and recreated. I mean, I think that's just a -  
15          - there's probably a -- and no fault to Eric,  
16          he's got about a million things in the air.  
17          But that's probably something that it would be  
18          best for staff to look into, what we've charged  
19          and what we're telling them.

20          MR. HORNER: All right. So let me know if this is the  
21          right section. It is Regulation 20-4.8,  
22          "Promoters must pay to the commission the  
23          higher amount of either five percent of the  
24          total gross admissions received at the event or  
25          a \$25 minimum gate fee within 30 days after the

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1 event."

2 MR. THOMPSON: That's the right section.

3 MR. McCULLOUGH: So with regard to the admissions,  
4 that's actually butts in seats, so the 25 is  
5 more for like the low-level wrestling  
6 promotions and whatnot. So that's going to be  
7 applicable; I think that's the answer to the  
8 question on that. With regard to the TV thing,  
9 I don't know if we have a regulation in there -  
10 - oh, I think we do.

11 MR. THOMPSON: It speaks to -- just a little bit  
12 further down, Bob.

13 MR. HORNER: Okay. I'll find it.

14 MR. McCULLOUGH: Whatever the answers to that question  
15 are, my guidance would be that you consider  
16 reaching out then with those specific answers  
17 to the UFC. And if, for any reason, based off  
18 their experience in other states, there is a  
19 genuine reason for push back, I would recommend  
20 the chair considers having a special meeting to  
21 see if it's something addressable at the board  
22 level, to be more in line with what the  
23 standard is.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Starting 2013.4.

25 MR. HORNER: -- 5. .4 or 5? 5.

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1 MR. THOMPSON: It's 5, yeah.

2 MR. HORNER: Okay. I'm looking for -- well, it says -  
3 - I don't know how y'all have done this in the  
4 past. It says -- all right, so 20-13.1 says  
5 Commission Fee. "Every person, club,  
6 corporation, organization or association who  
7 shall hold any boxing, wrestling, kickboxing,  
8 full contact karate or sparring exhibition or  
9 performance in this state shall pay to the  
10 commission ten percent of the gross receipts  
11 received by reason of the lease or sale of  
12 television, moving picture or radio rights in  
13 connection with any such exhibit or  
14 performance." And it has a separate section  
15 for closed circuit television. "Any person who  
16 charges and receives admission for fees for  
17 exhibiting via closed circuit TV, any boxing or  
18 sparring match, including kickboxing, full  
19 contact karate or wrestling exhibitions, must  
20 obtain from the Athletic Commission an annual  
21 license. Application for the annual license is  
22 a \$50 fee. Additionally, such person must  
23 apply to the commission for a permit for each  
24 location where the telecast will be shown at  
25 least two weeks in advance. If they don't meet

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1 the deadline the commission will not issue the  
2 permit until he pays the fine. There shall be  
3 no penalty. Each application for a permit has  
4 a \$50 certified fund fee for each location at  
5 which the event will be telecast. Fees for  
6 locations are arranged after the permit has  
7 been submitted to the commission and 24 hours  
8 after arrangements have been made. The  
9 promoter may elect to pay a permit fee of \$1000  
10 at the time of the permit application in lieu  
11 of \$50 per location."

12 MR. McCULLOUGH: If I may, I believe that the latter  
13 portion of that is dealing with closed circuits  
14 specifically where they're broadcasting it to  
15 another physical site where it's being shown.  
16 I think it sounds to me like the initial part  
17 is essentially ten percent of their online  
18 broadcast. I would recommend to the board that  
19 they consider really ironing down this one  
20 specific topic because of that becoming a point  
21 of great contention on large dollar amounts  
22 both for the state and for that promoter. Also  
23 I think, convoluting that, if my understanding  
24 is correct with the way the UFC does things  
25 now, they have recently entered into an

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1 agreement with ESPN Plus, where people have  
2 memberships for that and then get their -- then  
3 will purchase the pay-per-view via that venue.  
4 So obviously I don't believe the commission is  
5 probably entitled to any with regard to ESPN's  
6 cut, but probably the cut they pay for a  
7 specific thing. That's where it should -- like  
8 I say, I just believe that that's probably a  
9 nut that needs cracked because it's a big deal.

10 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: So it's your opinion that we may  
11 need to reduce that?

12 MR. McCULLOUGH: I have no opinion on that topic,  
13 whether or not --

14 MR. THOMPSON: I think what we've kind of gathered  
15 from the understanding is that we can try to  
16 seek it but it could be held that it's not our  
17 rights, it's ESPN's rights, and they have the  
18 right to hold whatever show -- whatever, we  
19 still would get nothing. So, it's just --

20 MR. D'ANDREA: We would still get ten percent,  
21 wouldn't we --

22 MR. THOMPSON: Well --

23 MR. D'ANDREA: -- if it went on ESPN?

24 MR. THOMPSON: Ten percent, not really. The way it  
25 was explained to me was that the promotion was

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1 the promotion. ESPN was the one that was  
2 putting it on, and they would be under that  
3 mother craft of ESPN and they have their own  
4 little deal that we would have to deal with.  
5 But it wouldn't be the promotion who actually  
6 got the permit.

7 MR. D'ANDREA: Okay.

8 MR. McCULLOUGH: It's obviously -- with all of the  
9 logistics of managing and getting ready for  
10 this big event that staff has to handle and  
11 everything else, it's something that just  
12 easily seems like a brush-aside'able, like, oh,  
13 whatever. But it's a big deal. Not to say,  
14 oh, the state's going to make money. But if  
15 the state is entitled to a little bit of money  
16 and they disagree with that, you wouldn't want  
17 to create --

18 MR. D'ANDREA: Right.

19 MR. McCULLOUGH: You don't want any questions on this,  
20 whether it's zero or a number with lots of  
21 zeros, no matter what that answer is, I would  
22 recommend that we dial -- that you dial down on  
23 that answer quickly, make sure they're aware of  
24 that answer and work out any problems that  
25 therein would come from it just so -- because



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1 ultimately your goal is to encourage an  
2 environment where they are going to come back  
3 and have other events and other promotions are  
4 going to do the same. But I think it's our  
5 responsibility -- your responsibility to ensure  
6 that that specific answer gets answered,  
7 because anybody who is in business wants to  
8 know how deep you're going to put your hands in  
9 their pockets if so.

10 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, Eric, how would we need to -  
11 - I mean, what would we need to do to proceed  
12 to find out what their intentions are as far as  
13 -- I mean, if they're still operating within  
14 the state they would have some sort of footing  
15 to stand on, but --

16 MR. THOMPSON: They're operating within the state, but  
17 we would have to kind of get with Bob just to  
18 narrow down exactly whether they are actually  
19 the parent or is ESPN the parent. And that's  
20 where it's going to kind of decide whether we  
21 can try to get something of the cookie jar.

22 MR. McCULLOUGH: And if I may on this specific topic,  
23 the one advantage that you have as a board is  
24 that you're not reinventing the wheel. Matt  
25 Woodruff in Georgia just did that event last

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1 week. Andy Foster out in California. My  
2 recommendation would be that y'all and staff --

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Reach out to those folks.

4 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- reach out to them and say, hey,  
5 how does this work? And that's going to give  
6 you the template for which to follow. But  
7 ultimately you have to exist within a framework  
8 of our own regulations. But, "How do y'all do  
9 this? What do you do?" I would reach out to  
10 them lickety split.

11 MR. THOMPSON: We got you.

12 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Perfect.

13 MR. HORNER: Well, and that one section does say the  
14 commission can unanimously vote for a lesser  
15 amount. So, I mean, there is -- like you said,  
16 work it out sooner rather than later, and --  
17 whatever the answer may be.

18 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yeah.

19 MR. HORNER: You know.

20 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, could you reach out to them  
21 and just ask and see how they -- kind of smooth  
22 things over so that we don't -- kind of  
23 approach it the same way. Obviously if it's  
24 working for them it can work for us, so.

25 MR. THOMPSON: Will do.

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1 MR. HORNER: Will, when you were in Georgia was that a  
2 similar UFC event?

3 MR. McCULLOUGH: That's exactly right.

4 MR. THOMPSON: That was a UFC event.

5 MR. McCULLOUGH: Yeah, that was -- I mean, it was --  
6 it was their UFC event there. It was probably  
7 a bigger show than we're going to have. This  
8 will still be the biggest one we've had. But  
9 yeah, they --

10 MR. HORNER: We don't know what they did in Georgia as  
11 far as --

12 MR. THOMPSON: I'll find out.

13 MR. McCULLOUGH: But I'll tell you, they're -- they're  
14 so -- it benefits the entire region to have  
15 events.

16 MR. HORNER: Yeah, promotion. Yeah.

17 MR. McCULLOUGH: Yeah. Georgia has been very positive  
18 about working with us, and I'm sure Eric will  
19 have no hurdles in getting answers from them.

20 MR. BATES: Do they have closed circuit there?

21 MR. McCULLOUGH: No, closed circuit is often used in  
22 events where it's packed. And then they have  
23 an off-site location for overflow, or maybe  
24 you're having your events here and you're  
25 charging for butts in seats and different

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1 things. So that's -- they're beyond that. I  
2 don't think that's going to be an applicable  
3 thing. To a degree it probably is with bars  
4 and things like that, but I don't think that  
5 will be applicable.

6 MR. HORNER: I mean, it doesn't -- in your experience  
7 it hasn't included merely broadcasting it to  
8 the box seats in the arena?

9 MR. McCULLOUGH: No, sir. No, sir.

10 MR. HORNER: Okay.

11 MR. McCULLOUGH: May I give you an example? Years and  
12 years ago, when the WWE first came out with  
13 Wrestle Mania and it was a new thing, they  
14 would be having the actual Wrestle Mania in an  
15 arena somewhere, and then you could buy tickets  
16 -- because I was, you know, young at the time,  
17 I bought tickets to go sit in an arena in Erie,  
18 Pennsylvania, to watch it on a big screen, even  
19 though the event itself was held hundreds of  
20 miles away, and they would charge for that. So  
21 that's where closed circuit was being utilized.

22 MR. D'ANDREA: Right.

23 MR. McCULLOUGH: It was previous to pay-per-view. So  
24 I think that's kind of an antiquated tool for  
25 this. It's getting -- is it the norm, because

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1 I don't know, is it the norm for a state to  
2 receive a portion of their pay-per-view sales  
3 in addition to their butts in seats? If it is  
4 the norm, what is it that we as a state say  
5 that we regulate and how in line is that with  
6 other states? We want to be attractive for  
7 these entities in a way that's at least  
8 comparable to other states. You don't want to  
9 leave money on the table, nor take something  
10 that we're not entitled to. So I just believe  
11 that it's something that as a board you  
12 definitely want to iron out, and you don't want  
13 it to be a week before the event. Because  
14 ultimately they invented this stuff. So if  
15 they say, you know -- they're a business and  
16 they want as much in their pockets, as they  
17 should, but I'd see what other states are  
18 doing. And now I'm just getting redundant, so.

19 MR. HORNER: I did always think that the -- when you  
20 go to a USC football game and they have all the  
21 Cockabooses and they have their own TV sets and  
22 you can't see into the stadium and you don't  
23 have a ticket into the stadium, but you're  
24 watching a game that's not even broadcast on  
25 TV, that that is closed circuit TV for purposes

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1 of that game because it is only offered to  
2 whoever USC enters into an agreement to  
3 broadcast that. And I know being in an arena  
4 is different because they just, you know --  
5 you're at the game, you can see it with your  
6 own two eyes; the fact they put it on the TV  
7 doesn't necessarily make it closed circuit.

8 MR. McCULLOUGH: Well, your point is also valid  
9 because, although my arena example is  
10 antiquated, what they do have is commercial --  
11 my understanding is they do have commercial  
12 agreements with like Buffalo Wild Wings, and  
13 they will broadcast it there and then Buffalo  
14 Wild Wings pays them a fee to have that. And  
15 that may be something that other states somehow  
16 do. I don't know. But what I'm saying --  
17 whether or not that should be is a -- I think  
18 it would be good to get that info from other  
19 states.

20 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yeah.

21 MR. McCULLOUGH: And just see how they handle it. And  
22 California is the tip of the spear with Mr.  
23 Andy Foster, and Georgia is a local friend with  
24 Matt Woodruff. I think you'll get those  
25 answers quickly from them. Yes. Oh, sorry,

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1           that's not my role.

2           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yes, sir? Mr. Steele?

3           MR. STEELE: Don Steele. Years past, now this is  
4           going back to the pay-per-view closed circuit  
5           stuff, the venues would purchase it and then  
6           y'all would go out and collect the fees from  
7           the venues. So I don't know if that's changed  
8           somewhat. I don't know if that has any bearing  
9           on what y'all are talking about, but that's  
10          happened years past. And I can tell you right  
11          now, I don't think it's happening now because  
12          there are so many people that are broadcasting  
13          UFC and everybody else that y'all are missing  
14          out on a lot of fees that the state could  
15          acquire, just to let you know.

16          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Thank you, sir. I appreciate the  
17          input, that's -- yeah, that's what we hope to  
18          find out from Georgia and see.

19          MR. McCULLOUGH: If I might add one last -- the last  
20          thing I would say on this is that we've all  
21          collectively worked for a long time to help  
22          foster an environment that allowed this type of  
23          business to come to the state, grow, prosper  
24          and do all that. So I would encourage us to  
25          iron -- encourage you iron that down. But, for

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1 lack of a better way to articulate it, don't  
2 get greedy. I mean --

3 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: We obviously want everybody to  
4 come back and continue, so. Okay. Any other  
5 discussion on that topic? Any other comments,  
6 questions, concerns? Hearing none, we shall  
7 move forward to the next item, New Business,  
8 Justin Brown.

9 MR. THOMPSON: He has a proxy.

10 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. I didn't see Justin here so  
11 I figured Ms. Williams was going to speak on  
12 his behalf.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: You've got me. Good morning, good  
14 morning. Justin had a work emergency today and  
15 he was unable to make it, so he asked for me to  
16 speak on his behalf.

17 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: And on behalf of USFMMA. So again,  
19 good morning. Before I begin with what I want  
20 to discuss, I just kind of wanted to make a  
21 public mention that --

22 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: One moment. Can you repeat your  
23 name for the record?

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Diana Williams. Sorry. I just wanted  
25 to say that Will --



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1 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Wait one second. Okay. Yeah,  
2 okay. Just making sure. You're good. I'm  
3 sorry.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: That's okay. I just wanted to say  
5 that, you know, Will, you've been such an  
6 instrumental part of the athletic commission.  
7 I've been working in combat sports now for  
8 almost 15 years, and you have been fair. And  
9 your involvement, not only with the board and  
10 having a board that works together, but also  
11 just with working with all of the promotions,  
12 the fighters, it's appreciated. And so I am  
13 ecstatic that they have, you know, the board  
14 itself has found a way to have you still be on  
15 as an advisory member just to help to guide. I  
16 think that's really important, you know, with  
17 any board, and so I'm glad that we'll still  
18 have an opportunity to see you within this  
19 community.

20 MR. McCULLOUGH: Thank you.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: And so thank you again. As I  
22 mentioned, my name is Diana Williams, and I was  
23 recently nominated and approved and placed into  
24 the position of an executive director of  
25 USFMMA. USFMMA is the United States Federation

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1 of Mixed Martial Arts, and it is a organization  
2 for the U.S. that handles all of the athletics  
3 for amateur mixed martial arts participants.  
4 The mission of USFMMA is basically to empower  
5 the U.S. athletes so we can help them to reach  
6 a sustained competition level and, most  
7 importantly, allow them to compete on a healthy  
8 platform, a safe platform, and something that  
9 allows them to reach their optimum status when  
10 it comes to future Olympic recognition. I'm  
11 not sure -- you have some new board members,  
12 but in the past we have a lot of amateur mixed  
13 martial arts athletes that are not given an  
14 opportunity to compete safely. Through regular  
15 regulation through state athletic commissions  
16 throughout the U.S., many athletic -- amateur  
17 athletes are forced to have to compete quickly  
18 in order to receive purses. As we all know,  
19 amateur fighters do not receive a purse. And  
20 so for them to receive fair compensation for  
21 their competitions, they are forced to reach --  
22 forced to compete and train on a pro level.  
23 And many times that can be unhealthy. And I  
24 know, Will, you're familiar with that. What  
25 our board or our commission is doing is --

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1 we're not a commission, I'm sorry -- what our  
2 organization is doing is basically to prepare  
3 these fighters to compete on an Olympic level,  
4 and then also giving them an opportunity to  
5 have a voice within their own community. We're  
6 asking today for -- a request for the board to  
7 approve us to be an amateur sanctioning  
8 organization within the state of South  
9 Carolina. We have been approved before, I  
10 think through UMMAF. We have a board that has  
11 been placed -- our current board stands with --  
12 and I'll -- if you want, you can definitely  
13 visit our website to look at the board members  
14 that are listed. I'll try not to take up the  
15 board's time with all of their bios, but we are  
16 made up of a committee that has five nominating  
17 and governing committee members, five audit  
18 committee members, five ethics committee  
19 members, five judicial committee members, and  
20 five appeal committee members. Our board  
21 itself is made up of ten board members. That  
22 includes two athletic directors, an independent  
23 director, a general membership director, and a  
24 director of an affiliated organization. We  
25 also have one director that's representing for

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1 the amateur fighters themselves, and then a  
2 director that is a member of not only USFMMA,  
3 but also a current member of IMMAF, which is  
4 the International Mixed Martial Arts  
5 Federation. We have advisory councils that are  
6 set up that are members much like the position  
7 that Will will be filling going forward with  
8 the South Carolina Athletic Commission. And  
9 we've separated the U.S. up into eight regions.  
10 Those regions have a representative of the  
11 athletic field within each state -- well,  
12 within each region that will cover and be a  
13 point of contact for all of our fighters. As  
14 we've mentioned before on previous board  
15 members, the purpose of our organization is to  
16 allow staff, as well as rural meetings to be  
17 held that will eliminate I guess the additional  
18 finances from the board, from the South  
19 Carolina Athletic Commission. So our job is  
20 not to completely take over. The South  
21 Carolina Athletic Commission will still be a  
22 representative at all of the events, but we  
23 would be the sanctioning body that would do the  
24 results. Fighters have an opportunity to  
25 create a membership which gives them voting

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1 rights within our organization as well. But  
2 all of the funding for licensing still goes  
3 back to the athletic commission.

4 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Good.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: And I have to apologize for fumbling in  
6 the beginning. Justin was supposed to be here  
7 to do this, so --

8 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yeah, I know the feeling. So --

9 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm so sorry. And it's like I know  
10 this, but at the same time I was newly  
11 appointed to the position so I'm learning all  
12 the ins and outs of the organization. I know  
13 how combat sports work. I've not only worked  
14 with combat sports in the private sector, but  
15 I've had the pleasure of working with combat  
16 sports with the South Carolina Athletic  
17 Commission. So that's what made me the best  
18 fit candidate to take on this responsibility as  
19 the executive director. Not only that, but  
20 also the relationships that I have within the  
21 fight community, as well as with the  
22 commissions, not just in South Carolina, but  
23 throughout the U.S.

24 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. Well, thank you for your  
25 time, for speaking and coming and filling in

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1 for Justin. I don't know if we have -- well, I  
2 should -- discussion then.

3 MR. D'ANDREA: Well, I just have a question. You said  
4 that this organization was approved before by,  
5 I didn't hear who that was.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Well, there was a board meeting that  
7 was held to approve for sanctioning  
8 organizations to be able to come before the  
9 board to request to be an authorized  
10 sanctioning body within the state for amateur  
11 mixed martial arts.

12 MR. D'ANDREA: And that came before the athletic  
13 commission?

14 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.

15 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: And I think Mr. McCullough can  
16 probably shed some light on that.

17 MR. McCULLOUGH: If I may? So a while back, as a  
18 board we voted on and approved the concept of  
19 allowing reputable third-party sanctioning  
20 bodies to sanction amateur MMA events in the  
21 state of South Carolina. And when we did that  
22 it was specifically because the only entity at  
23 that time that was doing it was UMMAF.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.

25 MR. McCULLOUGH: So we, one, said that's okay; and

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1 two, said UMMAF could do that. But looking  
2 forward, not to show favoritism because of only  
3 one body being able to do that, we did say if  
4 another reputable third-party entity ever came  
5 into the state and wanted to do that, they  
6 would just have come before the board and get  
7 our approval to do the same. And so what I --  
8 don't let me put words in your mouth, but what  
9 my, as an advisor, opinion is is that you are  
10 probably here today for the purpose of seeking  
11 that approval --

12 MS. WILLIAMS: That's correct.

13 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- from the board to be approved as  
14 a third-party sanctioning body for amateur MMA  
15 in the state of South Carolina, just like the  
16 board had done for UMMAF?

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.

18 MR. McCULLOUGH: So that being the fact, if it was  
19 something the board wished to do, which as an  
20 advisor I would advise you may consider doing  
21 it, you would simply then have a vote as to  
22 whether or not we wish -- you wish to sanction  
23 the USFMMA entity to sanction amateur MMA in  
24 South Carolina. So you would say -- well, you  
25 know what to say. But that's the purpose of

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1           this, is to do what you've already done with  
2           UMMAF for this entity. Does that answer --

3           MR. D'ANDREA: Well, what happened to it? I mean, if  
4           it was approved.

5           MR. McCULLOUGH: It was approved, it's just a  
6           different organization.

7           MR. D'ANDREA: Okay. All right.

8           MR. McCULLOUGH: And they want to do the same thing.

9           MR. D' ANDREA: Okay.

10          MR. BATES: And you say UMMAF, U-M-A-F?

11          MR. McCULLOUGH: U-M-M-A-F.

12          MS. WILLIAMS: U-M-M-A-F.

13          MR. McCULLOUGH: UMMAF is the one that we previously  
14          approved.

15          MS. WILLIAMS: United States Mixed Martial Arts  
16          Foundation.

17          MR. McCULLOUGH: USFMMA, which is who you now  
18          represent, is asking to do the same thing. Not  
19          that I'm privy to the history of it, but a lot  
20          of the individuals and players in that initial  
21          organization have shifted and created this new  
22          one as it's their opinion it allows comparable  
23          service in a better way. So a lot of the same  
24          players, same idea, my recommendation as an  
25          advisor would be that you consider allowing



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1           them that same opportunity to do so. And you  
2           can do that, unless counsel disagrees with me,  
3           via vote today if you so choose to do so.

4           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: We just have to make a motion.

5           But the other question is too -- and I'm not  
6           knocking -- I know you said it had to do with a  
7           qualified entity. Have we qualified -- what  
8           qualifications did we meet last time in order  
9           to make that a --

10          MR. McCULLOUGH: It's my personal opinion that this  
11          particular entity is every bit as qualified, if  
12          not hypothetically more than the one you've  
13          already approved.

14          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: That's what I'm getting at.

15          MS. WILLIAMS: If you will allow me to, I'd like to  
16          share just how qualified we are. Our board, as  
17          I mentioned, is made up of ten board members:  
18          Dominick Cruz; Dr. Ari Kramer, who is a member  
19          of Fight Doctors; Duke Roufus, who is a  
20          fighter; Fonti Kandarlis, who is not only an  
21          athlete, but she also works with IMMAF; Giorgio  
22          Boscolo, he's a board member; Justin Brown;  
23          Orlando Jimenez is our chair; and Ralph Cook is  
24          a board member. And Ralph Cook had six years'  
25          experience prior working with ISKA as a state

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1 director, as well as working with UMMAF. He's  
2 not only one of the board directors, but he  
3 also sits on our advisory counsel. Through all  
4 of the members of our board, as well as members  
5 of our advisory counsel, our ethics committee,  
6 our judicial committee, we've got a great deal  
7 of members that have experience working with  
8 Bellator, ISKA, IMMAF, and working with the  
9 IOC, which is the International Olympic  
10 Committee. So we have a fully capable and  
11 competent group of people that are working with  
12 this organization. So they have done a  
13 tremendous job thus far with pulling together  
14 everyone that represents not only the fighters  
15 but the organization respectfully and being  
16 sure that we are going to be respected, not  
17 only within each of our respective states, but  
18 also with the International Olympic Committee  
19 and the International Mixed Martial Arts  
20 Federation.

21 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Sure. And I didn't mean you were  
22 not qualified.

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Not at all.

24 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: I just wanted to make sure that as  
25 long as we're approving it, that we're making

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1           sure that everybody --

2           MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

3           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: -- you know, that the credentials  
4           are there and everyone is qualified.

5           MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

6           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: And it obviously sounds that that  
7           is the case. And that being the case, I would  
8           mirror or would I guess --

9           MR. McCULLOUGH: If I can add just one last piece of  
10          information for the board.

11          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yes.

12          MR. McCULLOUGH: The individual that came and  
13          presented in front of the board for UMMAFF, the  
14          original organization, for them to be approved  
15          by the board, was Mr. Justin Brown. Mr. Justin  
16          Brown is the person who is, via proxy, asking  
17          for it for this organization. It's -- I don't  
18          want to say it's the same people, but --

19          MR. BATES: I've got a question. What's the  
20          difference -- or, what's for Justin bringing  
21          that on, and what's the desire from leaving  
22          that, that he worked hard to bring, to now  
23          creating another one? What's the good and bad  
24          of him doing that?

25          MS. WILLIAMS: Well, there really is not a good and

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1 bad. To be honest, all of us do this job  
2 because we love the sport. We have a passion  
3 for it. We've been in it. Many of us are  
4 volunteering our time; and not just time, but  
5 our finances, our energy, and we're doing it  
6 because it's right for the fighters. We want  
7 to see the sport grow and we want to see it  
8 respected because, again, we have a passion for  
9 it. Justin, at the time that he was involved  
10 with UMMAF, he believed in the vision that the  
11 organization was taking. And I can't speak for  
12 Justin, I just know that at the time that  
13 USFMMA began to form, that organization was  
14 created because there were some things within  
15 UMMAF that he felt personally didn't  
16 appropriately represent the fighters the way  
17 that he felt that they should. The direction  
18 that he wanted the organization to go, there  
19 was no way for that to happen within where he  
20 was, and so this organization was created. And  
21 not only is it a lot of what UMMAF -- what he  
22 presented when he came to the board for UMMAF,  
23 but it also gives the fighters an opportunity  
24 to have a voice. And that's why all of the  
25 advisory councils were created in order to

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1           appropriately support these fighters. None of  
2           us would be here if it weren't for them. And  
3           so we want to make sure that they have proper  
4           representation and that we're giving them an  
5           opportunity to have a voice in the changes that  
6           are going to ultimately affect them with  
7           competing. I'm sorry. Did I answer your  
8           question?

9           MR. BATES: Perfectly.

10          MS. WILLIAMS: Wonderful, thank you.

11          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Thank you, ma'am.

12          MR. HORNER: From a legal standpoint, has there ever  
13                been the requirement that they fill out any  
14                paperwork or --

15          MR. THOMPSON: If I'm not mistaken, I think there was  
16                -- from the UMMAF, there was a document that we  
17                produced for them, but I think it was more I  
18                was thinking for an event or something like  
19                that.

20          MR. HORNER: Okay.

21          MR. THOMPSON: A period of time.

22          MR. HORNER: But not --

23          MR. THOMPSON: I think it was like they were given a  
24                period of time, either one year or -- can you  
25                elaborate?

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1 MR. McCULLOUGH: Yes. So hypothetically the chair, if  
2 -- the chair obviously could ask if there was a  
3 motion to approve the US --I forget my acronym,  
4 this organization --

5 MS. WILLIAMS: USFMMA.

6 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- as a third-party sanctioning body  
7 for amateur MMA in the state of South Carolina  
8 for a term of one year. And then any of these  
9 third-party entities would just have to come  
10 back after a year and reapply to get a --

11 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: So the chair is asking, is there a  
12 motion that USFMMA is a third-body sanctioning  
13 party for a term of one year in South Carolina?

14 MR. D'ANDREA: Do we -- I'll make a motion here in a  
15 minute. Do we have like documentation of your  
16 board members and all that?

17 MR. THOMPSON: No, this -- well, this is the first  
18 time they're presenting it to --

19 MR. D'ANDREA: Could you send Eric some --

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

21 MR. D'ANDREA: Just so we have it on file?

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely.

23 MR. D'ANDREA: That we, you know, have people's names  
24 and --

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, I can email a copy of --

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1 MR. D'ANDREA: -- and kind of your mission, what you  
2 want to accomplish?

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely. All of this information, I  
4 will definitely send a copy of -- I'll have to  
5 I guess pull everything from our website. Our  
6 website is completely up and running, and it  
7 has a list of all of our committee members,  
8 board members, advisory council members, as  
9 well as their bios and their experience within  
10 combat sports.

11 MR. D'ANDREA: I just think that would be good for us  
12 to have. But I'll make the motion to approve -  
13 -

14 MR. BATES: I got a question.

15 MR. D'ANDREA: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

16 MR. BATES: My lack of understanding and being the new  
17 guy, when people bring something to vote on do  
18 you have to wait to vote until the next  
19 meeting, or do you give the committee time to,  
20 hey, look it up, learn about it, read about it  
21 and form a better opinion, versus just hearing  
22 her speak?

23 MR. HORNER: Typically the boards can do two or three  
24 or even four things. The first one is you do  
25 have the right to vote upon it. They are

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1 properly here before y'all. They do have a  
2 request under the New Business section. So if  
3 y'all felt strongly enough about the meeting  
4 the criteria, then someone could make a motion  
5 to accept them and it would go through the  
6 process of a second and then everybody vote.  
7 The second thing you can do is you can -- if  
8 you decide there is more information that you  
9 need that's crucial to the decision, and that  
10 information wasn't provided to you, you can  
11 accept the information given to you as  
12 information and request that they come back to  
13 the next board meeting with a list of  
14 additional information. Maybe you wanted to  
15 see their financial records or maybe you wanted  
16 to see if any of their fighters ever got  
17 murdered or -- murdered is not a good word,  
18 killed in the ring, or whether or not, you  
19 know, what -- just things about their past that  
20 you have a specific concern about because you  
21 don't know enough about them. You accept what  
22 they brought you as information; ask them to  
23 come back with more information, at which point  
24 you could then take a vote. Or you could take  
25 a vote right now and say your being granted



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1 this is conditioned upon your producing to us  
2 in the next 15 days all the names of the board  
3 of directors and other information off the  
4 website. And that way, it's conditionalized  
5 and it doesn't take effect until they get it in  
6 to you. But the vote is done, so once Eric  
7 certifies "I got their information" the  
8 positive vote becomes a binding vote.

9 MR. McCULLOUGH: But it's subject to, if I may, it's  
10 subject to -- like Bill had asked for this  
11 information. In that case, what we would  
12 historically -- not just this situation, but we  
13 would often do is we'd -- because there is such  
14 a huge pause in between these meetings,  
15 hypothetically the board would vote to approve  
16 this subject to the information that they said  
17 they would get.

18 MR. BATES: That makes sense.

19 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Whatever stipulations and --

20 MR. McCULLOUGH: And that would play out in a  
21 cornucopia of different scenarios.

22 MR. BATES: I just don't want to not vote or vote and  
23 we've got the big event coming up and they're  
24 not able to help.

25 MR. McCULLOUGH: One thing I would mention, as a

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1 commissioner, always vote your conscience. You  
2 never should feel pressured to make a vote a  
3 certain way. You're here because you've shown  
4 sound judgment to somebody.

5 MR. D'ANDREA: And this is only for one year, correct?

6 MR. HORNER: It is for --

7 MR. D'ANDREA: You'll have to come back, Diane, right?

8 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes, we'll have to come back next year.

9 We're prepared to do that. We've already  
10 worked several events already so, of course,  
11 after a year you'll see much more of us. But,  
12 you know, we definitely, as with every other  
13 state that we've been to to present, we  
14 requested that they kind of, you know, check  
15 our website, follow us on social media. Many  
16 of our board members are involved in athletics  
17 anyway so they are followers of our sites. And  
18 I'd also like to mention that we do have  
19 Bellator, UFC, and -- there's one other  
20 organization that's slipping my mind right now,  
21 that's already on board working with us with  
22 their amateur fighters. So we are not just  
23 seeking that from the board, we are actually --  
24 we have larger promotion companies that are  
25 supporting us wholeheartedly, so.

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1 MR. HORNER: Like, in the dental board you'll get --  
2 some dentist practice will want to try  
3 something brand new, never been done before,  
4 using nitrous oxide in some way, and they'll  
5 develop a policy and it'll have -- it will be  
6 -- it will have 30 percent of the information.  
7 Well, the dental board is never going to accept  
8 just knowing 30 percent of the information, so  
9 they -- they'll accept it, send them back, say  
10 we'll see you in two months, and they've got to  
11 come back. And if they are at 70 percent,  
12 they've got to go back again. And so that --  
13 in those situations, mainly where you're  
14 dealing with health issues -- the nurses are  
15 the same way when they want to try things  
16 differently, but everybody is really cautious  
17 about it and you're not just looking for a  
18 piece of information, you're looking for a  
19 wealth of information to round it out. That's  
20 when you would typically accept their  
21 information as information, dictate to you when  
22 they want to see them back to continue the  
23 process of getting licensed. But in cases like  
24 this, it happens all the time, an applicant  
25 hasn't -- didn't send in an order from Georgia

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1           where they got disciplined as a nurse, and we  
2           say send that in, upon receipt you'll be  
3           licensed and --

4           MR. BATES: So we can vote and approve them and then  
5           say, hey, send us information?

6           MR. HORNER: Correct. And you can condition that --  
7           upon receiving the information in 30 days, or  
8           whatever time frame y'all want to create,  
9           whenever she thinks she can get it to you, that  
10          kind of thing.

11          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: And we do approve a lot of things  
12          and add stipulations to them.

13          MR. BATES: Yeah, that makes sense now.

14          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: So that we can progress along so  
15          long as the information comes back.

16          MR. BATES: That's good with me.

17          MR. D'ANDREA: I think we commend you for the --

18          MS. WILLIAMS: Sorry. I'm going to grab a pen because  
19          I feel like you guys are going to ask me to do  
20          something. I'm listening, thank you.

21          MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chair, if possible, I just want to  
22          ask a question.

23          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yes.

24          MR. THOMPSON: So if I'm understanding you guys, you  
25          said the purpose of the organization is to

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1 allow the amateur fighters to compete at an  
2 Olympic level, be safe, but be the sanctioning  
3 body. So you would work with the commission,  
4 but what does that look like? I mean, in terms  
5 of what are you guys going to do? Are y'all  
6 going to provide --

7 MS. WILLIAMS: We provide all the officials and, of  
8 course, the staff is provided from -- is  
9 provided by the promoter. But as far as the  
10 judges and the officials that -- the referees  
11 that are there, we provide that. So that's an  
12 expense that the commission no longer has to  
13 bear. With assigning and checking  
14 qualifications, that's of course the part that  
15 we actually do. With amateur kickboxing -- and  
16 let me just briefly say this: Amateur mixed  
17 martial arts began to be regulated because it  
18 was a sport that was not being regulated and  
19 pro MMA was approved. Amateur kickboxing is  
20 currently not regulated by the South Carolina  
21 Athletic Commission. Amateur boxing is  
22 currently not regulated by the South Carolina  
23 Amateur Commission -- or, Athletic Commission.  
24 And the reason for that is because the way that  
25 the sport is regulated or -- not that it's

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1 regulated, but the way that the sport is run is  
2 completely different. Amateur fighters can be  
3 of any age; and so when you have amateur  
4 fighters that are being held to the same  
5 standards as a pro, it gets to be a little  
6 confusing. Just in my experience, there needs  
7 to be a separation at some point of regulation.  
8 And amateur fighters are able to be placed into  
9 a contract. They are already being paid, they  
10 are paying licensing fees. With amateur  
11 fighters they are not receiving a purse. The  
12 way that they train is differently. And many  
13 times, like for instance with South Carolina,  
14 amateur mixed martial arts fighters have to  
15 have minimum of six bouts and a 75 percent win  
16 in order to compete as a pro. But they're  
17 still being -- they still have to pay the same  
18 licensing fees as a pro pays. And they also  
19 don't have the same opportunities to compete.  
20 And so in order for them to get any type of  
21 recognition within their sport, they have to  
22 pretty much switch over to become a pro  
23 fighter. Well, a lot of amateur fighters -- we  
24 have -- I work in amateur boxing as well. A  
25 lot of amateur fighters, they -- and, Andrew,

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1 I'd probably ask you, if that's okay, to kind  
2 of -- what's the longest record or the longest  
3 fight time that you've had for an amateur  
4 boxer?

5 MR. STOKES: I don't understand. What do you mean?

6 MS. WILLIAMS: So you have -- for the amateur boxers,  
7 many of them decide to just stay as a amateur  
8 fighter. What's the longest career for an  
9 amateur fighter?

10 MR. STOKES: Oh. We have some that never turn pro.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: So what's the longest record, the  
12 longest fight career that you've seen?

13 MR. STOKES: I don't know. We have guys right now  
14 competing in amateur boxing that are 48 years  
15 old.

16 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. So the reason that I asked him  
17 that is because that would be unheard of for an  
18 amateur mixed martial arts fighter. With our  
19 amateur boxers, they have an opportunity to  
20 fight state championships, regional  
21 championships, and Golden Gloves. And then  
22 they also have Olympic -- or, regional  
23 championships for the Olympics. They don't  
24 have that opportunity with MMA as an amateur  
25 fighter. And the reason is because there is no

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1 organization that supports them. So they have  
2 no outlet other than going pro and hoping to  
3 get the recognition of fighting on a larger  
4 promotion company such as UFC or Bellator. And  
5 so USF -- organizations like USFMMA, our goal  
6 is to help these fighters to have a safe  
7 playing field exactly like they have with ISKA  
8 or USA Boxing. We want to provide that for  
9 them, and there is nothing like that now. So  
10 again to answer your question, you know -- I  
11 think if I remember correctly, your question  
12 was what --

13 MR. THOMPSON: So all y'all need from us is licenses?  
14 To be there to license --

15 MS. WILLIAMS: We will be there to license and provide  
16 the officials.

17 MR. THOMPSON: And to just --

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct. Correct. We also have  
19 someone there that will do all the rules  
20 meetings and basically all of the  
21 responsibilities that the athletic commission  
22 would have. We only take care of that for the  
23 amateur fighters.

24 MR. THOMPSON: So just like the UFC, you guys would  
25 have the officials; we would just be there for



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1 oversight to ensure that the officials are  
2 doing what they are supposed to do?

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely. Absolutely.

4 MR. McCULLOUGH: May I interject for one moment?

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

6 MR. McCULLOUGH: On this topic, you had mentioned,  
7 accurately, so South Carolina does not regulate  
8 or oversee amateur boxing.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.

10 MR. McCULLOUGH: We also don't regulate or oversee  
11 amateur kickboxing.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.

13 MR. McCULLOUGH: We do however, via regulations,  
14 oversee and regulate amateur MMA.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.

16 MR. McCULLOUGH: So whether or not one personally  
17 agrees with that or not, it is the way it's  
18 written.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: That's correct.

20 MR. McCULLOUGH: So as a board, you have the  
21 obligation to stay within the framework of  
22 those regulations. So, correct me if I'm  
23 wrong, but what you are asking for via this  
24 isn't to suddenly start holding amateur events  
25 all across the state without the state's

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1 involvement. The state still needs to be  
2 involved, as per our regulations, at every  
3 level. This just eliminates the degree of the,  
4 quote, heavy lifting?

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Correct.

6 MR. McCULLOUGH: But at any point where state  
7 regulations are in conflict with what your  
8 entity is doing, state regulations trump that  
9 because we do regulate amateur MMA, whether  
10 that's a pro or a con. So because this is a  
11 new thing for the state, even though UMMAF got  
12 promoted -- got approved, I don't believe they  
13 ever actually had a show yet. So this is still  
14 a little bit inventing the wheel. So my  
15 recommendation would be, if y'all -- there is  
16 going to be some growing pain on that, and I  
17 would caution there being -- caution on the  
18 side of -- work with staff in making sure that  
19 first hypothetical event goes the way it's  
20 supposed to and the state isn't just washing  
21 their hands of it, they're not. It's just  
22 where there's -- the state is still involved,  
23 just they are eliminating a degree of the heavy  
24 lifting to increase the volume of amateur  
25 shows. But if there is one pro card on that,

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1 all bets are changed and they now have to start  
2 -- so that's just random --

3 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: And I think that's why we  
4 initially approved UMMAF with just -- because  
5 of that, because we couldn't help with that --  
6 the big picture I guess, and they were doing  
7 the heavy lifting as you say. So it's -- I  
8 think it's a win-win to have them on board to  
9 help with this.

10 MR. McCULLOUGH: Yeah, if there's any amateur boxing  
11 event, a Golden Gloves, the state's not  
12 involved in that at all, I mean -- but we are  
13 involved in amateur MMA via regulations. So  
14 you can't shirk that, you still have to do  
15 everything the state has to do for that, just  
16 they're taking over parts of that to encourage  
17 more growth for amateur to remain in the state.  
18 If that makes sense.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: And it also cuts down on, you know,  
20 typically with an amateur show the state would  
21 have to have, not just assign the officials to  
22 be -- for judges and referees, but you'd also  
23 be responsible for bringing staff to work that  
24 event. We cover that. So that would no longer  
25 be an expense of the athletic commission. Of

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1 course, you still have to have a representative  
2 there --

3 MR. THOMPSON: A representative, uh-huh.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: -- because based on the statute and  
5 regulations it's still sanctioned by the  
6 athletic commission. But us being there would  
7 eliminate -- you would only need to send one  
8 representative as opposed to what I've noticed  
9 at recent shows, there's anywhere from six to  
10 eight people. So there would no longer be a  
11 need to do that because USFMMA would provide  
12 all of the staff in order to take care of all  
13 the responsibilities at the event. And we have  
14 currently done the kickboxing events and Muay  
15 Thai. So we had an event on --

16 MR. STOKES: March 30th.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: March 30th, thank you. And we'll also  
18 be sanctioning the event on June 15th.

19 MR. McCULLOUGH: So to clarify for the board, they are  
20 already sanctioning amateur kickboxing events  
21 in the state. Also keep in mind that  
22 ultimately fighter safety and all that --

23 MR. THOMPSON: Right.

24 MR. McCULLOUGH: -- with amateur MMA rests on the  
25 board. So you can't shirk that. This is just

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1 allowing it to evolve into what ten years from  
2 now will probably be them doing their own  
3 thing, just like boxing or whatever. Our  
4 regulations don't support that. I'll shut up.  
5 Thank you.

6 MR. THOMPSON: I think that's -- I mean, for the most  
7 part I understand what she's saying. It really  
8 comes down to saving costs for the amateurs.

9 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Yeah.

10 MR. THOMPSON: From what I can see just on this. But  
11 she's right, we have had additional staff but  
12 they would not charge for additional staff. So  
13 we've had folks there but they don't charge.

14 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. Any more questions? Any  
15 discussion?

16 COMMISSION: (No response.)

17 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: That being said, I'll put forth  
18 again then if there is a motion as to USFMMA?

19 MR. D'ANDREA: I'll make the motion to approve it  
20 pending on the information sent to Eric. I've  
21 done -- I don't know what time frame you --

22 MS. WILLIAMS: I can have it to you by the end of the  
23 day today.

24 MR. THOMPSON: What time frame you guys set.

25 MR. D'ANDREA: Well, yeah.

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1 MR. THOMPSON: It's what you set.

2 MR. D'ANDREA: Oh, yeah. So in ten days or whatever.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: So the motion is made. Is there a  
5 second?

6 DR. VAUGHT: This is Dillon, I'll second.

7 MR. BATES: Do we need to clarify what she needs to  
8 send us, or does she already know what --

9 MS. WILLIAMS: I actually want to clarify that. The  
10 only thing y'all previously mentioned was that  
11 you wanted the bios for the board members.

12 MR. D'ANDREA: Well, I think if you could send us, you  
13 know, you talked about safety, you probably  
14 have some bylaws.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Our bylaws, yes. They are available as  
16 well.

17 MR. D'ANDREA: I would send everything that your  
18 organization has put together.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

20 MR. D'ANDREA: I understand your intent, and I think  
21 it's good promotion for what we're trying to  
22 do. I just think it would be prudent for us to  
23 have that information documented.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Absolutely. So just to clarify, you'd  
25 like a copy of the bylaws as well as --

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1 MR. D'ANDREA: The board members --

2 MS. WILLIAMS: -- the bios for all board members.

3 MR. D'ANDREA: And your mission, your visions,  
4 whatever your, you know, whatever you --

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

6 MR. BATES: And then potential responsibilities that  
7 y'all are helping with these fights. I think  
8 you said the board doesn't have to have a  
9 certain amount of people. You know, what are  
10 the responsibilities y'all are trying to help  
11 alleviate at these events or cover?

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: And let me clarify the motion and  
14 make it ten days.

15 MR. D'ANDREA: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Instead of an open end.

17 MR. D'ANDREA: I'll make the motion to approve that  
18 pending on the information we receive within a  
19 ten-day period

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

21 MR. D'ANDREA: Okay.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: And can I confirm one more time please?

23 MR. D'ANDREA: Sure.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: So you need a copy of our mission, our  
25 responsibilities at the events, our bylaws, and

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1 all the bios for each board member; is that  
2 correct?

3 MR. D'ANDREA: Kind of concise bios I think would be  
4 fine. And your purpose.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay.

6 MR. D'ANDREA: You know, why you exist.

7 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: And, Dillon, you still seconded  
8 that motion; is that correct?

9 DR. VAUGHT: Yeah, pending all that information.

10 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: All those in favor?

11 COMMISSION: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Any opposed?

13 COMMISSION: (No response.)

14 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Hearing none, the motion passes.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you so much.

16 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Thank you for coming today.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: What is next? Mr. Oxendine. Are  
19 you still on the line with us?

20 MR. OXENDINE: I am here, yes, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Fantastic. Well, you're up next,  
22 team MMA. You have the floor, sir.

23 MR. OXENDINE: Okay. So, yes, I just wanted to touch  
24 base with the commission, based on -- I'll give  
25 a little bit of history about the team MMA



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1 sports, that's what we're there for, so you're  
2 going to be very aware. So we first approached  
3 the South Carolina Athletic Commission in late  
4 2014, early 2015. We actually held an  
5 unsanctioned event in Virginia, which was  
6 legal, but we invited -- there was no way to  
7 sanction it. There was no body that would --  
8 that could do it. So we invited all regional  
9 athletic commissions within the area. This was  
10 in Virginia, so we invited Tennessee, Georgia,  
11 South Carolina, North Carolina. South Carolina  
12 did attend. And from that point we began the  
13 process to sanction in the state of South  
14 Carolina. So after working approximately a  
15 year, speaking with the commission, with you  
16 guys, we were able to hold our first event in  
17 September of 2015. That was in Myrtle Beach.  
18 That was Arena Combat. Then following that we  
19 had more meetings and discussions. There were  
20 some revisions to the rules, which brought it  
21 to the current state of rules for the state of  
22 South Carolina with team MMA where it is  
23 involved. It provided a provisional three-  
24 event allowance. Basically we would hold three  
25 events, and those were probationary. And after

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1 each one there would be a meeting to discuss  
2 the rules and so forth. So we, following that  
3 we held another event in January of 2017, and  
4 so that would have been the first probationary  
5 event. We would now hold two. Of course, it's  
6 a growing sport, with a lot of combat sports  
7 kind of -- that are alternative combat sports  
8 sort of on the rise. We, you know, we were in  
9 the development process of, you know, funding  
10 it, that sort of thing. It's very expensive  
11 for a lot of the equipment and the arena and  
12 that sort of thing, the cage that is involved.  
13 And so we are -- there was a -- we continued to  
14 work, but there was a recent surge in the sport  
15 in particular. I know that Joe Rogan actually  
16 re-tweeted it, and so there has been a huge  
17 outcry for the return and so, you know, we  
18 would be in the process of constructing a new  
19 facility or a new cage for this event. And so  
20 we're wanting to reach out to the athletic  
21 commission again and discuss, you know, the  
22 second probationary event of the three. Make  
23 sure that that's going to be permitted under  
24 the terms and the rules that we currently have  
25 discussed and, you know, just get the ball

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1 rolling to expand on this sport, which is --  
2 you know, we've held two sanctioned events  
3 there, they've been successful and, you know,  
4 touch base with you guys and see where we go  
5 from there.

6 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. And I appreciate you being  
7 with us today. And I think this -- we are  
8 probably going to have more discussion about it  
9 I guess. I do recall the very first bout in  
10 Myrtle Beach. It was something different for  
11 sure. I know it's changed some over time, but  
12 to get some of the other board members up to  
13 speed and maybe refer to counsel on some of  
14 this information. I don't -- Will, I don't  
15 know how we left it with -- it's been --

16 MR. McCULLOUGH: Well, if I may. I honestly  
17 personally don't recall how we left it off the  
18 top of my head. I mean, we had -- am I  
19 correct, Casey, in saying -- so you had two  
20 events; is that right?

21 MR. OXENDINE: We did, yes. Two sanctioned events  
22 with South Carolina.

23 MR. McCULLOUGH: And just for clari- --

24 MR. OXENDINE: The first one -- yes, after the first  
25 one we, we -- I re-approached the commission

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1 with you guys and was provided three additional  
2 probationary events, which we held one other,  
3 which was Team MMA Battle with the newest  
4 revised rule set. Which was, you know, put in  
5 place -- you know, the first event had elevated  
6 obstacles; these new rules would eliminate the  
7 elevated obstacles and just basically put this  
8 in a place with a two-on-two bout in a -- in an  
9 arena which could have those obstacles. In  
10 other words, you couldn't climb on and ascend  
11 them, but you could move throughout them in a  
12 maze situation. And so -- and, of course, we  
13 have the rules, the current rules, you know,  
14 that we could provide the commission to oversee  
15 and take a look at.

16 MR. McCULLOUGH: Casey? Casey?

17 MR. OXENDINE: So what we did is we held the second  
18 event, and then we approached you guys. And  
19 that would have been the last meeting that we  
20 had, was directly following the last event,  
21 which was actually about four to five months  
22 after -- I believe there was something with the  
23 flooding that occurred there, and we weren't  
24 able to directly have a meeting. And so it  
25 was, I think it was probably about mid-2017 if

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1 I would guess --

2 MR. McCULLOUGH: Casey? Casey?

3 MR. OXENDINE: -- the last time we spoke.

4 MR. McCULLOUGH: Since you're on the line, and I'm not  
5 in a position to ask this since I'm not the  
6 chair, but I would -- I would ask personally,  
7 just when you go off on a monologue, give it a  
8 pause every so often in case somebody wants to  
9 chime in. I mean that with all respect, but  
10 just the logistics of it are difficult.

11 Anyhow, just a -- a point of education for  
12 everybody on the board, may I ask respectfully  
13 in kind of a concise way, what is -- what is  
14 your motivation -- if you ruled the world, what  
15 is your motivation for this presentation today?  
16 Are you seeking a vote on having an upcoming  
17 event soon, or did you just want to re-visit it  
18 to kind of take the temperature of where we  
19 stand? What's your -- what's your ideal  
20 motivation for the outcome of what we're doing  
21 right now?

22 MR. OXENDINE: Another event soon. I have investors  
23 that are willing to help us construct the new  
24 cage, which is a much more -- it's much easier  
25 to facilitate, to transport, to construct, and

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1 so forth.

2 MR. McCULLOUGH: May I --

3 MR. OXENDINE: So we would look at something in late  
4 2019, early 2020, is what we were hoping for.

5 MR. McCULLOUGH: Okay. So you answered what would  
6 have been my personal follow-up question, which  
7 was the timeline that you were thinking of. If  
8 I might just make a recommendation to all  
9 involved in my position of not-a-position.  
10 There is a lot of moving parts on this. We did  
11 have two events. There's questions that came  
12 up. But with the exception of myself, who is  
13 no longer involved, there's no one that was  
14 involved in that. And because it does include  
15 not just a potential for more risk, but at  
16 least the illusion of more risk, essentially  
17 what is being proposed is it's an MMA fight  
18 that's two-on-two, at the same time. It was  
19 exciting. There was concerns. But there is  
20 also ways to potentially alleviate that. You  
21 know, we're a fairly progressive board in  
22 allowing some -- trying something. If the  
23 board wanted to look into considering this, I  
24 think there probably needs to be a period of  
25 new education of the board on this topic. I

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1 think it would involve coming in, seeing fight  
2 clips, really everybody around this table with  
3 the exception-- well, that's not true, Mack was  
4 at that too, but I just --

5 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: I was.

6 MR. McCULLOUGH: I would -- I'm not saying gaff this  
7 or disregard it, I'm also saying my advice  
8 would be to not stamp something yet today. I  
9 think for the good of everybody involved, all  
10 of y'all probably need to learn more about this  
11 and work with Casey. I don't know if there is  
12 an answer in there. I mean I -- well, I'm  
13 being redundant now. I'm wishing that you  
14 could have possibly -- I know that's  
15 logistically not feasible, but it would be  
16 great for you to be able to be here and show  
17 clips and really educate these board members on  
18 what it is you're proposing. And I don't know  
19 if there is a path forward that's logistically  
20 easy for that to happen in a more timely manner  
21 for y'all. I just wanted to pipe in and kind  
22 of explain what it is. It's two-on-two MMA in  
23 a -- just a new format. And we've done it  
24 before.

25 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Mr. McCullough's remarks, I think

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1 he's correct. We probably do need some more  
2 discussion on it, Casey. We're not -- I hope  
3 it doesn't sound like we're kicking the can  
4 down the road, but just to give us a little  
5 more time to get acclimated to what you're --  
6 to what you're proposing I guess. So I would  
7 ask that you give us a little time to discuss  
8 it as a board and come up with an idea that we  
9 could get back together with you, hopefully  
10 within your time frame, to see what we can do.

11 MR. OXENDINE: Okay. Yeah, that sounds great. In  
12 that regard, should -- we, of course, do have a  
13 lot of paperwork, we also have a lot of video  
14 that we can provide and that sort of thing.  
15 You know, is that something that, you know, I  
16 should go ahead and provide to you guys, that  
17 way maybe leading up to the next meeting you  
18 will be prepared? I just actually finished an  
19 event on Friday night there in Little River,  
20 South Carolina. I was the matchmaker for that,  
21 and I partnered with Don Ketner who promoted  
22 that, so I was pretty, pretty covered up. And  
23 that's why I didn't end up there today, because  
24 I've been on the road, you know, a whole lot  
25 with this last event which, you know, had a lot



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1 of moving parts as well. If you would provide  
2 me what, you know, how you would like me to  
3 provide this information. And if you do have a  
4 sort of timeline, when you would want to re-  
5 visit, and that way I can be prepared to  
6 provide you any information that you need.

7 (Crosstalk)

8 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: -- videos type thing.

9 MR. D'ANDREA: Yeah.

10 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Is there videos of the previous  
11 fights that you could send?

12 MR. OXENDINE: Yes, of course. Absolutely.

13 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay.

14 MR. OXENDINE: And also I believe Mr. McCullough was  
15 in attendance and, of course, Mr. Shoemake, who  
16 both again are no longer there. I'm sure that  
17 once we provide all of that, then Mr.  
18 McCullough would be able to provide some of his  
19 insight as well in detail whenever we --

20 MR. McCULLOUGH: Hey, Casey?

21 MR. OXENDINE: -- we do re-visit.

22 MR. McCULLOUGH: Casey, if I may just make a  
23 suggestion because, once again, it's just --  
24 once again, it's not to be like kicking this  
25 can, but at the same point, you know, we've got

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1 a lot of folks who are just unfamiliar with  
2 what it is you're discussing. If I may make a  
3 recommendation to yourself, you might consider  
4 just some type of digital package that could  
5 educate essentially a layman on exactly what it  
6 is you're proposing. A little write-up, this  
7 is what team MMA is, here are some video clips  
8 from it, here are some things that were said  
9 about it. Essentially a promotional package  
10 that you could provide the staff, that staff  
11 could in turn provide the board so they could  
12 at least discuss and debate it, you know, with  
13 a foundation of wisdom on what it is they're --  
14 does that make sense? I would --

15 MR. OXENDINE: Sure.

16 MR. McCULLOUGH: I would recommend that you could send  
17 --

18 MR. OXENDINE: Yeah, and I believe we did that before,  
19 when we originally got the approval. However,  
20 as you mentioned, things have changed. So,  
21 yeah, I have plenty of video footage and so  
22 forth, and I can produce something for you. No  
23 problem at all.

24 MR. McCULLOUGH: Because the regulatory framework  
25 exists for, if the board so chose, to vote and

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1           approve on such a thing again because the board  
2           has done it before. But now you've got  
3           different individuals who may not be aware of  
4           what it is you're proposing. It's a little bit  
5           of reinventing the wheel, but you already have  
6           a car.

7           MR. OXENDINE: Sure, absolutely. Agreed.

8           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Well, if you can get that to  
9           staff, we'll table this discussion until next  
10          regular meeting when we have a chance to --

11          MR. THOMPSON: August 13th.

12          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: August 13th.

13          MR. OXENDINE: Okay. Yeah, that sounds perfect.

14          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. Anything else? Any  
15          questions? Anybody have -- None? Casey, thank  
16          you for your time today. I appreciate you  
17          hanging on through the technical difficulties.

18          MR. OXENDINE: No problem. I appreciate the time with  
19          the commission. Thank you so much.

20          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Thank you. And next I know we've  
21          got a slew of age waiver hearings. Can we take  
22          like about a ten-minute recess because I need  
23          to run --

24          MR. THOMPSON: You're the chair.

25          CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: I'm the chair, okay. Well, we are

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1 going to take a ten-minute recess. So we're at  
2 recess, or do we have to --

3 MR. D'ANDREA: I'll make a motion if necessary.

4 MR. BATES: I'll second that.

5 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: All those in favor?

6 COMMISSION: Aye.

7 (Off the record from 12:01 p.m. to 12:17 p.m.)

8 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: We're back then. So I make a --  
9 is there a motion to come out of recess?

10 MR. BATES: I make a motion to come out of the recess.

11 MR. D'ANDREA: And I'll second it.

12 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: All in favor?

13 COMMISSION: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Dillon, you and Hamp still with  
15 us?

16 DR. VAUGHT: Still here.

17 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. Very good. All right. The  
18 motion carries. We will move forward to our  
19 age waivers. We have a few here. They are a  
20 little out of order for ours.

21 (Board discussions adjourned at 12:18 p.m. for hearings per  
22 the agenda. Board discussions resumed at 12:28 p.m.)

23 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: That concludes New Business.

24 We'll move on to Unfinished Business, which  
25 appears to have no items at this time for this

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1 draft. I guess we'll move on. We don't  
2 require an executive session I'm assuming. So  
3 before we return to public -- move to Public  
4 Comments, I ask staff if there is anything  
5 additional you need to add or would like to  
6 include?

7 MR. THOMPSON: Well, let me see. Not at this time.

8 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Okay. Well, then we shall move on  
9 -- move forward to Public Comments. We have  
10 some public here who have been waiting  
11 patiently.

12 MR. STEELE: What did you look at me for?

13 MR. McCULLOUGH: Public, there is the public. Does  
14 the public have any comments?

15 MS. WASHINGTON: I've already spoken.

16 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: This is the first time I've seen  
17 the three of y'all quiet at one time, now. I  
18 guess we move forward to adjourning. Is there  
19 a motion to adjourn?

20 MS. YOUNG: May I ask one thing? Did you introduce  
21 Mr. Bates to the --

22 MR. THOMPSON: Folks on the phone about the new --

23 MS. YOUNG: Did you tell the board members that you  
24 have a new board member?

25 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: I think Will covered that.

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1 MS. YOUNG: Okay.

2 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: But just to make sure, we do have  
3 a new board member for you guys on the phone.  
4 Hopefully you'll be able to make a meeting,  
5 we'll all be able to make a meeting in person  
6 and have a face to go with a voice in the near  
7 future hopefully, so. We're glad you're here  
8 and thank you, Will, for helping out all the  
9 way around. Is there a motion for adjourning?

10 DR. VAUGHT: What's his name? I haven't met him yet.

11 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Coleman, Coleman --

12 MR. McCULLOUGH: Bates.

13 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: -- Bates.

14 DR. VAUGHT: One more time, sorry?

15 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Coleman Bates.

16 DR. VAUGHT: Coleman Bates. I see. Nice to meet you.

17 MR. BATES: Bates like the motel.

18 (Off-the-record discussion.)

19 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Is there a motion to adjourn?

20 MR. D'ANDREA: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

21 MR. BATES: I'll second the motion.

22 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: There is a motion and a second.

23 All those in favor?

24 COMMISSION: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: All those opposed?

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1           COMMISSION: (No response.)

2           CHAIRMAN ESTRIDGE: Motion is carried, we are  
3                           adjourned.

4           (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.)


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CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of 95 pages, is a true, accurate and complete transcript of the meeting taken before me, Robin K. Reibold, the undersigned Court Reporter. This meeting before the South Carolina Athletic Commission was held on April 30, 2019, at the offices of the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina.

Said meeting was reported using the method of Stenomask with backup and was transcribed by me.



May 29, 2019

ROBIN K. REIBOLD, CVR  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 4-28-2021