

**Council of the District of Columbia**  
**COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
**PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT HEARING**  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

---

February 6, 2017

Mr. Adam Weers  
District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission  
1100 4th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Chairperson Weers:

The Committee on Business and Economic Development will hold performance oversight hearings on agencies under its purview between February 15, 2017, and March 1, 2017. The District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission's hearing will be held on **Wednesday, March 1, 2017**, at 10 a.m. in Room 123. In preparation for your hearing, the Committee is sending the following questions for your response.

Please submit your responses no later than close of business **Wednesday, February 22, 2017**. If you need to discuss any of the questions, please contact Jontae Clapp, Legislative Advisor, at [Jclapp@dccouncil.us](mailto:Jclapp@dccouncil.us) or (202) 727-3888.

*District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission  
Performance Oversight Hearing Answers*

- 1. Please provide a list of the Commission’s current members. For each member, please provide the following:**
- a. The member’s name**
  - b. The Ward, agency or organization the member represents**
  - c. Who appointed the member**
  - d. When the member’s term expires**
  - e. Attendance record**

**Answer:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Appointed by</b>	<b>Expires</b>	<b>Attendance (Absences)</b>
Adam Weers	5	Mayor Bowser	Serving at the Pleasure of the Mayor	(0)
Andrew Huff	4	Mayor Bowser	1/5/19	(1)
Kim Lockett	4	Mayor Bowser	1/5/19	(2)

2. Please provide a list of the Commission’s meeting dates, times, and locations for FY16 and FY17, to date.

Answer:

<b>FY 16 Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Attendance (Absent)</b>	<b>Location</b>
October 20, 2015	7:00 pm	Timothy Thomas and Sean Ponder (Byran Irving)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
November 10, 2015	7:00 pm	Timothy Thomas and Sean Ponder (Byran Irving)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
December 15, 2015	7:00 pm	No Quorum (Byran Irving, Timothy Thomas and Sean Ponder)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
January 12, 2016	7:00 pm	No Quorum No Quorum (Byran Irving, Timothy Thomas and Sean Ponder)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
February 9, 2016	7:00 pm	Timothy Thomas and Sean Ponder (Byran Irving)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
March 17, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff (Kim Lockett)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
April 21, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff, Kim Lockett	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
May 19, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff, Kim Lockett	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
June 16, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff (Kim Lockett)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
July	Recess	Recess	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
August	Recess	Recess	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
September 15, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff, Kim Lockett	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
<b>FY17 Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Attendance (Absent)</b>	<b>Location</b>
October 27, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff, Kim Lockett	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
November 17, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Kim Lockett (Andrew Huff)	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
December 15, 2016	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff, Kim Lockett	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW
January 26, 2017	7:00 pm	Adam Weers, Andrew Huff, Kim Lockett	DCRA 1100 4 <sup>th</sup> St., SW

3. Did the Commission receive funds in FY16 and FY17? If so, please provide the following:
- The amount of the funding
  - The source of the funding
  - A list of all expenditures
  - A description of how these funds furthered the Board's/Commission's mission

Answer:

**Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs  
FY 2016 - Budget Status Report - Boards & Commissions - Boxing & Wrestling (6012)**

Comp Source Group	Comp Source Group Title	Approp Bal	Pre Encumbrance Bal	Act Encumbrance Bal	Expend Bal	Pre-Encumbrances, Encumbrances and Expenses	Available Balance	Percent Obligated
0011	REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	63,455.35	0.00	0.00	74,220.53	74,220.53	(10,765.18)	117.0%
0014	FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	14,848.55	0.00	0.00	15,306.38	15,306.38	(457.83)	103.1%
0015	OVERTIME PAY	16,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,766.56	5,766.56	10,233.44	36.0%
		<b>94,303.90</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>95,293.47</b>	<b>95,293.47</b>	<b>(989.57)</b>	
0020	SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	5,500.00	0.00	0.00	3,095.31	3,095.31	2,404.69	56.3%
0040	OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	24,386.98	0.00	0.00	15,099.69	15,099.69	9,287.29	61.9%
0041	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER	43,029.00	0.00	0.00	31,420.00	31,420.00	11,609.00	73.0%
0070	EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	6,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,434.89	1,434.89	4,565.11	23.9%
		<b>78,915.98</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>51,049.89</b>	<b>51,049.89</b>	<b>27,866.09</b>	
		<b>173,219.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>146,343.36</b>	<b>146,343.36</b>	<b>26,876.52</b>	

**Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs  
FY 2017 - Budget Status Report - Boards & Commissions - Boxing & Wrestling (6012)**

Comp Source Group	Comp Source Group Title	Approp Bal	Pre Encumbrance Bal	Act Encumbrance Bal	Expend Bal	Pre-Encumbrances, Encumbrances and Expenses	Available Balance	Percent Obligated
0011	REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	31,413.13	0.00	0.00	10,945.11	10,945.11	20,468.02	34.8%
0014	FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	7,978.93	0.00	0.00	2,186.43	2,186.43	5,792.50	27.4%
0015	OVERTIME PAY	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	507.23	507.23	4,292.77	10.6%
		<b>44,192.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>13,638.77</b>	<b>13,638.77</b>	<b>30,553.29</b>	
0020	SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.0%
0040	OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	18,525.00	0.00	1,000.00	5,000.00	6,000.00	12,525.00	32.4%
0041	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER	22,810.00	0.00	590.00	7,410.00	8,000.00	14,810.00	35.1%
0070	EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	1,410.00	0.00	0.00	1,410.00	1,410.00	0.00	100.0%
		<b>44,745.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,590.00</b>	<b>15,820.00</b>	<b>17,410.00</b>	<b>27,335.00</b>	
		<b>88,937.06</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,590.00</b>	<b>29,458.77</b>	<b>31,048.77</b>	<b>57,888.29</b>	

These funds were used to sponsor events, conduct community outreach and for attendance at industry meetings.

**4. Please describe the Commission's activities in FY16 and FY17, to date.**

**Answer:**

The Commission's purpose is to oversee and regulate all professional combat sports in the District of Columbia. We achieve this purpose by focusing on several different areas including: licensing and training, event sanctioning and oversight, community engagement, support of local combat sports activities and organizations, and serving as ambassadors for combat sports in the District. A summary of the Commissions, specific activities during FY16 and FY17 to date are included below:

- The Commission continued its support of amateur boxing by donating needed boxing equipment and supplies to local amateur gyms throughout the city. Further, it supported amateur boxing by purchasing trophies and a ring for annual events.
- In FY16, the Commission oversaw 533 total licensees, of which 274 were new licenses issued in FY16. In addition, the Commission supported 2 training sessions providing licensees with continuing education opportunities.
- The Commission held 10 public meetings during FY16 at which the ongoing activities of the Commission were discussed and presented for public comment and input. Typical attendance at Commission monthly meetings ranges from 15-40 people. During FY16, the Commission also instituted a monthly series of informal gym visits, above and beyond the Commission's normal gym inspections. These informal visits are designed to provide the public with additional opportunities to access and communicate with Commissioners and to provide feedback.
- Individual Commissioners attended several events during FY16 on behalf of the Commission to provide support and encouragement as well as to provide additional opportunities for the public to interact and communicate with the Commission. Some of these events included; DC Mayor's Cup, the Potomac Valley Association Awards Banquet, the DC Boxing Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony, Friday Night Fights, Golden Gloves, and many more.
- The Commission sponsored the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Arnold W. McKnight Amateur Boxing Invitational, Kickboxing and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Exhibition, on Saturday, September 10, 2016 at the Fort Stanton Recreation Center. The event was designed to commemorate Dr. Arnold W. McKnight for his longevity and to introduce to at-risk youth boxing, kickboxing, and MMA as a constructive means to channel their energy. The event also showcases healthy competition, stressing discipline and individual expression.
- The District experienced a continuation of its boxing renaissance in FY16 as the Commission was honored to play host to several nationally televised and numerous world championship fights. Included in this activity were the World Boxing Council (WBC) and World Boxing Organization (WBO) championship fights promoted by Golden Boy Promotions; the World Boxing Association (WBA) Championship fights promoted by Headbangers Promotions; and the International

Boxing Federation (IBF) and WBC Championship fights promoted by Mayweather Promotions.

- With a full complement of Commissioners, the Commission continues its working relationships with sister agencies such as the Department of Parks and Recreation (in hosting the Dr. McKnight Event) and the Washington Convention and Sports Authority (in promoting the District's assets as incentives for promoters to host events).
- The Commission was represented at the Association of Boxing Commissions Annual Conference, August 1 to August 4, 2016, at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. Chairman Adam Weers, Commissioner Kim Lockett, Deputy Commissioner S. Skip Brown, and Commission Administrator Andrew Jackson attended.
- The Commissioners received training at The Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation (CLEAR) annual Board Member program. The following topics were presented: Foundation of Occupational and Professional Regulations; Roles and Responsibilities of a Board Member; Competence and Standards; Administration Rulemaking; and Professional Discipline. The trainings addressed licensing disciplinary issues, and a strong enforcement process, and brought ideas to improve the management of the Commission.

**5. Please describe the Commission's goals in FY17 and the plan/timeline for completion?**

**Answer:** The following goals are expected to be accomplished in FY17:

- The Commission will perform drug testing in combative sports for both non-championship and championship events.
- The Commission will continue to foster relationships with the Washington Convention Sports Authority, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and media assets of the city throughout FY17 to:
  - 1) bring publicity to its professional and amateur events in the city, and
  - 2) to create a vibrant advocacy for DC youth participation in amateur boxing and martial arts.
- The Commission will inspect all amateur gyms in the city throughout FY17, ensuring safety and compliance.
- The Commission will provide various boxing and MMA training opportunities to its officials through seminars, mini-clinics, and debriefings to improve the Commission's operations and executions during events.

**6. What challenges does the Commission face?**

**Answer:**

The Commission continues to work to identify available and affordable facilities for promoters to host events.

The presence of performance enhancing drugs within professional combat sports continues to be a national problem and is one of the most important issues facing the Commission today. The process through which any athletic commission discourages, combats, and ultimately eradicates the use of PEDs in the sports it regulates is a complex and ever-evolving effort. This effort was front and center for this Commission in FY16 when one participant in a nationally televised title fight tested positive for a PED after a fight. While this incident was, the ultimate resolution resulted in the creation of the District's first ever Clean Boxing Program which will be developed and implemented in FY17 with the assistance of the WBC. This new Clean Boxing Program will provide a framework through which the Commission can continue to work in the future to increase and improve its efforts to combat this scourge on the sports we regulate.

**7. How does the Commission represent and solicit feedback from residents? Please describe:**

**Answer:**

The Commission regularly surveys licensees after each professional boxing event and attendees of public meetings, to gain feedback to assess the Commission's efforts and to determine areas that need improvement or attention. Additionally, the Commission has numerous opportunities to solicit feedback from residents on an ongoing basis each year including the monthly meetings which are open to the public and held at 1100 4th Street, SW as well as informal gym visits conducted by Commissioners throughout the year.

**--What has the Board learned from this feedback?**

- The Commission has learned that feedback from residents; officials and its supporters are beneficial in drafting regulatory recommendations and incorporating operational changes.
- Another example of what the Commission learned from soliciting feedback during FY16 is that the public generally desires more specific information on the Commission's activities, specifically regarding the budget and how the Commission's resources were being spent than has been historically provided.

**--How has the Board changed its practices as a result of such feedback?**

- Regulations are currently being considered and correspondence is acknowledged by the Commission based on the public statements and comments.
- As a result of the feedback inquiring specific budget information, the Commission added a discussion of the budget activities as a standing agenda item on the monthly meetings and has begun discussing this in greater detail.

**8. Did the Commission host any major bouts in FY16 and FY17, to date?**

**Answer:**

- The Commission hosted several major television bouts during FY16. On March 5, 2016, the Commission hosted an HBO-televised event sponsored by Golden Boy Promotions. This event showcased a championship bout for the vacant WBO Welterweight Title between Jessie Vargas and Sadam Ali. The WBC Featherweight Title was up for grabs in a match between Robinson Castellanos and Oscar Escandon.
- On April 1, 2016, the Commission hosted its second televised event on Spike TV in which Adrien Broner defended his Super Lightweight Championship against Ashley Theophane.
- Floyd Mayweather and Mayweather Promotions came to the District of Columbia to host the third televised bout within two months on Showtime. This consisted of a championship doubleheader in which the co-main event was James DeGale vs. Rogelio Medina for the IBF Super Middleweight Championship. The main event of the night was Badou Jack vs. Lucian Bute for the WBC Super Middleweight Title.
- To add to the Commission's successful boxing growth, the Commission is proud to announce that four World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)-televised professional wrestling events were hosted at the Verizon Center. The Commission's relationship with WWE continues to grow each year. The Commission always looks forward to the WWE hosting some of its major events such as SmackDown, Battleground (Pay Per View), and Tribute for the Troops.

**9. Did the Commission sponsor any major events in FY16 and FY17, to date?**

**Answer:**

The Commission hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Arnold W. McKnight Amateur Boxing Invitational, Kickboxing and MMA Exhibition Event, on Saturday, September 10, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the event is to introduce at-risk youth to boxing, kickboxing, and MMA as a constructive means to channel their energy and to showcase healthy competition, stressing discipline and individual expression. Admission to this event was free, food was provided, and an awards ceremony was conducted honoring several outstanding members of the community for their impact on the District and on the combat sports community.

The event commemorates Dr. Arnold W. McKnight for his longevity and countless efforts on behalf of the DC Boxing and Wrestling Commission, where he served as the chairman for over 11 years. The event was held in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and the DPR facility at the Fort Stanton Recreation Center, 1812 Erie Street SE Washington, DC 20020 (Ward 8), was used for the site.



In many communities the Commission targets for youth outreach, residents do not receive a hot meal on a daily basis. Serving free food to the youth at this all-day event is a major component of this outreach effort. The Commission continues to strengthen its relationship with the Convention Center, which has served as food sponsor since the event's inception.

**10. What has the Commission done to increase publicity of the District's professional and amateur Boxing, Wrestling and Mixed Martial Arts in FY16 and FY17, to date?**

**Answer:**

- The FY16 events hosted by the Commission provided significant exposure and propelled the District into the national conversation as one of the most active cities in the country for professional combat sports. One of those events, televised on SpikeTV, garnered more than 1 million viewers and was the highest rated boxing event Spike has ever broadcast.
- The Commission's hosting of the NABF annual conference and the attendance by members of the Commission at the ABC annual conference (both discussed in question #4 above), provided significant national visibility for the District and provided exposure to and interaction with colleagues at leading athletic commissions, promotion companies, equipment manufacturers, and officials from the US, Canada, Mexico, Europe and South America.
- Individual Commissioners attended several events throughout the DMV region during FY16 on behalf of the Commission to provide support and encouragement for professional and amateur combat sports events. Attendance at these events allows Commissioners to fulfill their role as ambassadors for the District within these sports and provides additional opportunities for the public to communicate with the Commission. Some of these events included; DC Mayor's Cup, the Potomac Valley Association Awards Banquet, the DC Boxing Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony, Friday Night Fights, Golden Gloves, and many more.
- With the assistance of the Potomac Valley Association, the Commission regularly provides notice to the public of upcoming amateur and professional combat sports events at each monthly meeting.

**11. Does the Commission offer seminars and certification trainings for licensees? If so, how often and how many people attend the trainings?**

**Answer:**

The Commission provides boxing or MMA training for its officials typically once a year and approximately 25 or more officials attend. The Commission also partners with professional boxing sanctioning body officials that host various training seminars in the metropolitan area on an annual basis. Additionally, the Commission encourages its officials to attend annual seminars and certification trainings offered by members of the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports.

In lieu of Commission sponsored training for 2016, it supported the metro-area sanctioning body officials training seminar in Alexandria, VA in June 2016 and the NABF certification training at the August 2016 convention in the District.

- 12. Please tell the Committee about the 2016 Mayor's Cup: Amateur Boxing Tournament. Please include:**
- a. How many boxers competed?**
  - b. How many guest attended?**
  - c. Which agencies the Commission partnered with to host the event?**

**Answer:**

The 2016 Mayor's Cup Tournament was hosted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), though the Commission did provide support and assistance. Official and comprehensive statistics about this event will likely be held by DPR given their role as the lead agency coordinating the event.

Based on the Commission's unofficial estimates, approximately 12 bouts per day were held and an estimated 150 attendees came to the event, which was held over three days.

- 13. Please describe any changes you have made or anticipate making to the professional licensing process since last fiscal year, and include the efforts you have taken to inform the public of these changes.**

**Answer:**

The Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration (OPLA) endeavors to provide the Commission with updated websites, access to online licensing systems, and all required forms. As such, we are transitioning from paper to an online new license application process. This will augment the existing online renewal process. We are developing a marketing campaign, including electronic correspondence and updates to the Commission website, to inform all licensees.

- 14. How have you expanded the Commission's online services over the past fiscal year? What new online services are being offered?**

**Answer:**

OPLA's web-based license database allows users to initiate a wide range of licensing transactions online, with 24/7 access. Previously, all business with OPLA was conducted in person, over the telephone, or by mail. The use of the database allows individuals to download new license applications, renew existing licenses online, and change demographic data.

- 15. How does the Commission track applications for professional licenses?**

**Answer:**

All applications are tracked within the OPLA's database, which is a secure, web-based system.

**16. Please provide the Committee with the number of businesses/individuals that are licensed in each professional and licensing category.**

**Answer:**

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Active Count</b>
Professional Boxer	122
Professional Wrestler	156
Amateur Boxer	-
Apprenticeship	-
Professional Kickboxer	-
Inspector	9
Matchmaker	3
Boxer/Wrestler Physician	8
Manager	3
Second	149
Timekeeper	-
Judge	16
Referee	33
Announcer	14
Promoter	20
<b>Total Licenses</b>	<b>533</b>

**17. How many professional licenses were revoked in FY16 and FY17, to date, and for what reasons?**

**Answer:**

The Commission did not revoke any professional licenses in FY16 or FY17.

**18. What amounts of fines were issued in FY16 and FY17, to date, for violation of the rules governing professional licensure? What kinds of violations were committed? How much was actually collected?**

**Answer:**

A boxer tested positive for Performance Enhancement Drugs (PED). The boxer agreed to a settlement agreement which required him to pay a \$50,000 fine and serve a 6-month suspension. The funds were directed to a Combative Sports anti-doping fund to be used for drug testing for the District of Columbia Boxing matches. The Commission was very active in this negotiation and ultimately settled on this structure as the athlete in question was able to prove that the banned substance detected was in his system as a result of a tainted supplement.

The funds from this settlement will be used to establish the first ever Clean Boxing Program for the Commission, which will be administered in partnership with the WBC. The Clean Boxing Program will allow the Commission to significantly increase and improve its capabilities in discouraging and disallowing the use of PEDs in professional combat sports in the District.

**19. How does the Commission track applications for licenses and renewals?**

**Answer:**

The web-based license database allows the Commission to track new license applications with the total number of licensees reported monthly. The system tracks the total number or licensees that renew, which is reported upon the completion of the renewal period.