

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES & COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU**

MICHIGAN UNARMED COMBAT COMMISSION

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2023

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission met on March 9, 2023, at the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), Corporations, Securities & Commercial Licensing Bureau, 2407 N. Grand River Ave., Sun Conference Room, Lansing, Michigan. The Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Donald Weatherspoon at 10:04 am.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Donald Weatherspoon	Professional Member
	Todd Skinner	Professional Member
	Josh Bocks	Professional Member
	Bronco McKart	Professional Member
	Tammy Timlin	Professional Member
	Anne Morrell	Professional Member
	Wolfgang Mueller	Professional Member
	Byron Osbern	Public Member
	Ruben Martinez	Public Member
	Sharon Person	Public Member
Absent:	Corey Taylor	Professional Member
Staff:	E. St. Onge	Assistant Attorney General Representative
	Dan Kelly	Assistant Attorney General Representative
	Linda Clegg	Bureau Director
	Benjamin Parker	Licensing Division Director
	Stefanie Barr	Recording Secretary
	Kimberly Breitmeyer	Regulatory Compliance Division Director
	Mitchell Page	Legislative Analyst

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 12, 2023

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Martinez and supported by Mr. Bocks to approve the minutes as written from the meeting held January 12, 2023. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: The Vice Chair opened nominations to elect a new Chairperson of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission. It was moved by Mr. Martinez and supported by Mr. Bocks to nominate and elect Mr. Don Weatherspoon as the Chairperson of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

VICE CHAIRPERSON

MOTION: The Chair opened nominations to elect a new Vice Chairperson of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission. It was moved by Mr. Martinez and supported by Mr. McKart to nominate and elect Mr. Todd Skinner as the Vice Chairperson of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

PETITIONERS

JAVONNI BENNETT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Martinez and supported by Ms. Morrell that, after careful consideration of the written petition for review, the Commission recommended that the Department lift the suspension on Mr. Bennett's Professional Boxer license. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Department concurred with the Commission's recommendation.

STIPULATIONS

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Person and supported by Mr. McKart to accept all the following stipulations, apart from P.U.R.E. Pressure Boxing LLC, as prepared. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

ERIK AUSTIN TAYLOR, LICENSE NO. 15-04-020103, ACTIVE 08-31-2023, BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN: ENF-22-020135

CHRISTOPHER JAMES LINVILLE, LICENSE NO. 15-04-020048, ACTIVE 08-31-2023, CLIO, MICHIGAN: ENF-22-020127

RONALD LANE LONDON III, LICENSE NO. 15-04-000650, SUMMARY SUSPENSION 12- 13-2022, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN: ENF-22-020137

DESHAWN KENNEDY, LICENSE NO. 15-02-014126, ACTIVE 08-31-2023, HOLLAND, MICHIGAN: ENF-22-020134

MOTION: Following discussion, it was moved by Mr. Bocks and supported by Ms. Timlin to accept the following stipulation, as prepared. Chair Weatherspoon recused himself from voting. The motion carried by roll call vote.

P.U.R.E. PRESSURE BOXING LLC, LICENSE NO. 15-10-014297, LAPSED-SUSPENDED 12-20-2022, KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN: ENF-22-020064 & ENF-22-020096

HEARING REPORTS

TUONG-VI M. TRAN, LICENSE NO. 15-10-013800, LAPSED 08-31-2022, EASTON, PENNSYLVANIA: ENF-15-YY-344433

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Skinner and supported by Mr. McKart that the following penalty be assessed: Accept the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Hearing Report; impose a fine in the amount of \$7,500.00 and administrative costs in the amount of \$2,700.00 made payable to the State of Michigan within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing of the Final Order for ENF-15-YY-344433. Respondent's Professional Promoter license is immediately suspended for two (2) years from the date of the Final Order or until the fine and costs are paid in full, whichever is later. Respondent must submit a written petition to the Commission for reinstatement once the suspension period and fines and costs have been paid. The motion carried by a roll call vote.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

LEGISLATIVE EXPLORATORY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Commission welcomed new member Wolfgang Mueller.

Mr. Skinner provided a brief update concerning the goals and work of the subcommittee.

Legislative Analyst Mitchell Page indicated that he is memorializing information gleaned from subcommittee members and Bureau staff during regularly scheduled subcommittee meetings in a document in support of a bill proposal that will be submitted to LARA's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs (OPLA). OPLA will then assist the Commission in seeking a bill sponsor. The subcommittee is also determining which of its goals must be accomplished by statutory revision via a bill proposal and which may be done via another rulemaking after any statutory revisions resulting from the bill proposal.

More specifically, the subcommittee expressed its desire to ensure the separate licensing of officials by unarmed combat sports type was discussed along with requiring officials to be certified in each unarmed combat sport for which they officiate. Mr. Page clarified that the 2 pm

deadline for approval of events is required by rule and only applies to contestants. He further clarified that Bureau investigators are able to attend events without the need for a revision to existing law. The subcommittee would also like to shift the responsibility for assigning event officials from the promoters to the Commission and permit the sanctioning of events by third party sanctioning bodies.

SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Osbern provided a brief update on goals of the Safety Subcommittee. He will work with Mr. Page to schedule regular meetings of the subcommittee to explore such as issues as ensuring that event officials are granted separate licenses and training by unarmed combat sport.

Safety Subcommittee consists of Byron Osbern, Anne Morrell, and Sharon Person.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES – STATUS OF PENDING RULEMAKING

Mr. Page provided a brief update on the status of 2020-131 LR. The 15 session days while the rules are with the JCAR are set to expire by next week. After that occurs, the rules may be certified and filed with the Office of the Great Seal. He reminded the Commission that this ruleset increases minimum event official pay requirements and imposes specific conflict of interest prohibitions upon event official. The rules would also allow the Commission to sanction muay thai and kickboxing events.

Chair Weatherspoon requested that Legislative Exploratory Subcommittee study whether new administrative rules should be pursued that would allow the Commission to sanction bareknuckle or slap fighting events.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two individuals addressed the Commission.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission will be held on June 8, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes approved by the Commission June 8, 2023.

Prepared by:
Stefanie Barr, Commission Support
Corporations, Securities, and Commercial Licensing Bureau