

Update on the Progress of the Safety Recommendations

Recommendation

That the June 20, 2018, Citizen Services report CR_5550, be received for information.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the January 17, 2018, Community and Public Services Committee, the following motion was passed:

That Administration:

4. Bring a report to the May 23, 2018, Community and Public Services Committee providing an update on the progress of recommendations 1-17, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the January 17, 2018, Citizen Services report CR_5450.

Executive Summary

Administration has made significant progress in implementing recommendations in the MNP report to enhance fighter safety and to strengthen operational oversight and effectiveness and adherence to existing bylaw and policy standards. Administration will continue to work with industry stakeholders to ensure continuous improvement of processes, procedures, policy and regulatory oversight of Edmonton's combat sport industry.

Report

Since December 2017, Administration has made significant progress on the recommendations from the MNP report on safety recommendations. In February 2018, Administration provided an update (February 21, 2018, Citizen Services report CR_5548) to Community and Public Services Committee on Recommendation 5 (Medical Suspension History) and Recommendation 12 (Matchmakers) as well as improvements to Recommendation 11 (Reporting Results to Official Databases) and Recommendation 14 (Roles and Responsibilities of Officials). The report to committee in February 2018 highlighted work to date, operational changes and recommendation updates to improve fighter safety. Committee also received an update from the

Edmonton Combative Sports Commission on their efforts to address policy changes related to competitor safety.

On February 28, 2018, City Council passed Bylaw 18350 and Bylaw 18351 which removed the temporary restrictions that had prohibited the issuance of licences and permits for combative sports events since December 2017.

Administration and the Edmonton Combative Sports Commission shared responsibility for addressing recommendations stemming from the MNP report. The commission identified recommendations 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17 as being primarily within their mandate. Administration viewed recommendations 2, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 18 as their primary responsibility (Attachment 1).

Administration continues to work with industry stakeholders to improve operational oversight and effectiveness, adherence to existing bylaw requirements and Edmonton Combative Sports Commission policy standards. Recognition of outdated requirements, areas for improvement or areas that need further consultation and discussion have been noted for review and follow up. Administration has also offered its support to the commission in its efforts to address key policy improvement.

Progress Update

Administration's work on operational improvements and enhancements are themed into three areas: medical and contestant safety, licensing and permitting, and general operational improvement.

Medical and Contestant Safety

Several new and updated processes, procedures and forms are now in place to support closer review of fighter medical and suspension history. Statutory declaration, weigh-in and pre-event forms have been created or updated to allow closer scrutiny of proposed fight card participants and screen out fighters that might have medical, suspension or match-up related issues.

Administration continues to consult with the Chief Medical Officer, weigh-in and event medical physicians to support better documentation practices, testing and policy adherence. Procedures are now in place to ensure suspension rest period time frames meet Edmonton Combative Sports Commission policy standards. In addition, official website reporting and verification protocols are in place to identify discrepancies on posting submitted fight results and actual results.

Licences and Permits

Annual and event licence procedures and forms have been updated. Contestants are now able to meet the required licensing standards at the weigh-in and be provided with copies of their licences.

Promoter checklists for licensing and event requirements have been created in support of complete and timely information gathering. As part of the event permit, security and medical forms have been updated to ensure up-to-date information is captured and approved in advance of the event.

General Operational Improvement

An event incident form and log have been created to act as a historical record to track and identify deficiencies or operational issues for follow-up. This practice will allow Administration to be open, transparent, and support continuous improvement.

Work is ongoing to understand, improve, develop, and implement training, testing and shadowing requirements for new officials (inspectors). Efforts are also underway to better understand and support existing event officials training, compensation and operational needs.

Recommendation 12 (Matchmakers) is still under consideration. A number of key functional components of this position are in place and being evaluated. Promoters are required to provide information that demonstrates a fair and reasonable match-up for each bout, including: fighter suspension history, training camp duration, competitor fitness, amateur and professional record, and a rationale for the match-up. This demonstrates the promoter’s due diligence on any fight card submission (Attachment 2).

Administration continues to provide the commission with monthly compliance reports, operational updates, administrative undertakings, and other related information (Attachment 3).

Conclusion

While the MNP review indicated that the City’s policies on combative sports are generally aligned with practices from other organizations, there has been significant progress on the recommendations provided in the MNP report. Work will continue on improving processes, procedures, policies and regulatory oversight of Edmonton’s combative sport industry.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Edmonton is a safe city.			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)

The City supports Edmonton's vibrant and diverse sports and entertainment sectors and promotes a safe and healthy professional sport environment to ensure safety of athletes and spectators.	Number of recommendations actioned or implemented	100%	100% of recommendations actioned or implemented
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Attachments

1. MNP Recommendations
2. Operational Improvements Overview
3. Executive Director Monthly Report Template

Others Reviewing this Report

- S. Padbury / R. Kits, Acting Deputy City Managers, Financial & Corporate Services