

2015 CALGARY COMBATIVE SPORTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2015 annual report, developed collaboratively by the Calgary Combative Sports Commission (CCSC) and Administration, highlights customer service and safety enhancements in 2015, including process improvements, ongoing technology enhancements, staff training and knowledge, a drug testing feasibility project, and drafting of Mixed Martial Arts Calgary Unified Rules. The annual report also provides an activity summary with details of the sanctioned events held in Calgary over the last year, a 2015 financial overview with a statement of revenues and expenditures (Attachment 1), and the CCSC budget for 2016 and 2017 (Attachment 2), as required by the Calgary Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

Administration recommends that the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommends that Council:

Receive the 2015 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report for information.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2016 February 08 Council received for information report CPS2016-0019, which provided details of the 2016 CCSC work plan and projected budget.

On 2015 December 15, Council approved CPS2015-0704 2014 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Annual Report, which highlighted the implementation of the CCSC Governance Review. The report included a summary of 2014 Commission activities and financial information, along with the 2015 budget and overview of upcoming initiatives. Minor bylaw amendments were also included, at the request of CCSC and the Law Department, to clarify definitions and align the bylaw with industry terminology.

On 2014 November 03 Council approved report PFC2014-0761 which included amendments to the Calgary Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006. These amendments fulfilled the direction provided in PFC2014-0418, with the exception of the requirement for an annual report. Council directed that an annual report be provided to the SPC on Community and Protective Services, and the bylaw was amended accordingly.

At the 2014 June 09 combined meeting of Council, report PFC2014-0418 was approved, which included several recommendations relating to the administration of the CCSC.

BACKGROUND

The Calgary Combative Sports Commission (CCSC) has been regulating combative sports within Calgary for over 100 years. The CCSC's mandate is to ensure combative sports events are conducted in a safe environment for the participants, officials and spectators. Under Bylaw 53M2006, and through *Municipal Government Act* section 535.1, CCSC has the authority to control and regulate all aspects of combative sports events held in the city, such as the provision of officials and medical staff along with the coordination of pre-event activities such as weigh-ins.

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INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The 2015 annual report, developed collaboratively by CCSC and Administration, provides highlights of the Commission's customer service and safety enhancements, outlined further in Attachment 1. The report also provides an activity summary with details of the sanctioned events held in Calgary over the last year, a 2015 financial overview with a statement of revenues and expenditures (Attachment 1), and the CCSC budget for 2016 and 2017 (Attachment 2), as required by the Calgary Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006.

CCSC 2015 Highlights

In 2015, CCSC strengthened customer service and enhanced combative sport safety through a number of initiatives (Attachment 1), including process improvements, ongoing technology enhancements, staff training and knowledge, a drug testing feasibility project, and drafting of Mixed Martial Arts Calgary Unified Rules.

Strengthening Customer Service

Administration continued supporting the Commission in making processes and tools more consistent, efficient and convenient for event promoters. The CCSC began examining options to enhance service delivery for event promoters through further website enhancements, with a focus on increased accessibility of information. Additional staff training and knowledge in 2015 also focused on customer service and event safety.

Enhancing Event Oversight and Safety

In 2015, the Commission further enhanced event safety through several initiatives, including standardizing safety protocols for promoters and improving processes that support the industry's ability to meet safety requirements. The CCSC also investigated several safety initiatives in 2015 which will be implemented in 2016, including conducting a drug testing feasibility project, and researching and drafting the Mixed Martial Arts Calgary Unified Rules. These initiatives will further enhance event safety and fairness, support the growth of combative sports in Calgary, and better align with international best practices.

Activity Summary for 2015

In 2015, CCSC regulated 16 combative sports events, which are highlighted in Attachment 1, including information on event promoters, dates, venues, and gate fees. These events include Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), boxing and Muay Thai. The number of sanctioned events held in 2015 was consistent with 2014 and with the average number of events since 2008.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

CCSC works closely with Administration and the combative sports community in the development of the CCSC annual report and ongoing Commission activities. This includes research partnerships to support Commission process efficiencies along with fostering the development of industry best practices.

Strategic Alignment

This annual report aligns with the purpose of the Calgary Combative Sports Commission: to regulate, govern and control professional combative sporting events and contestants within the city of Calgary in consultation with The City of Calgary Administration.

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Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Council, over 100 years ago, determined that combative sports are part of a vibrant and diverse sporting environment. Today, combative sports continue to be a source of culture and entertainment for many Calgarians. A volunteer Commission has been identified as a valuable community resource to ensure the future success of combative sports within Calgary.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

CCSC utilizes a self-supporting financial model, securing a percentage of event gate fees to regulate and coordinate combative sports events. While Commission members are volunteers, they receive an honorarium for supporting combative sports events. In 2015, the CCSC recorded \$100 thousand in revenues and \$87 thousand in expenditures. The 2015 CCSC Statement of Revenue and Expenditures is provided on Page 8 of Attachment 1.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital funding implications associated with this report.

Risk Assessment

Combative sports, such as those sanctioned by the Calgary Combative Sports Commission, carry inherent risks to competitors. The CCSC mitigates risks by providing oversight through the bylaw provisions for licensing, rules, monitoring at events and enforcement. Risks are further mitigated through awareness of combative sports best practices including safety processes.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

In accordance with the Calgary Combative Sports Commission Bylaw 53M2006 and Council direction, the Calgary Combative Sports Commission (CCSC) and Administration are providing Council with the 2015 activity summary, detailed financial statement (both in Attachment 1) and the current 2016 budget and proposed 2017 budget (Attachment 2).

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. 2015 Calgary Combative Sports Commission Year in Review 2015
2. Calgary Combative Sports Commission 2016 and 2017 Budgets