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**USA Today Rates Nevada Athletic Commission
as Most Influential Regulatory Body in Combat Sports**

Las Vegas – Nevada Athletic Commission Executive Director Keith Kizer has been named #11 of the Top 20 MMA Powers by USA Today. The publication describes Kizer as leading the most influential regulatory body in combat sports.

Mixed Martial Arts, commonly referred to as MMA, is one of three unarmed combat sports that the Nevada Athletic Commission oversees, with the other two being boxing and kickboxing. Unarmed combat sports brought in nearly \$3 million of direct state revenue last year, and MMA proceeds were a significant portion of that, totaling over \$1 million. MMA also bring in tens of millions of dollars of other revenue, including spending on cars, hotels, restaurants, and more, into Nevada each year.

“Unarmed combat is very important to Nevada’s economy and our tourism,” said Kizer. *“Every year, we seek to enhance that economic benefit by providing safe, fair and competitive fights for tourists and local Nevadans.”*

Kizer continued, *“I am pleased to be included in such a prestigious list of movers and shakers in the MMA world, especially Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta, who have done so much for MMA here in Vegas.”*

The Fertitta Brothers are well known in Las Vegas for their family businesses, community involvement and philanthropic activities. They are also known for running the largest MMA organization in the country, the Ultimate Fighting Championship, which has put them at the top of USA Today’s list.

This August marks the tenth year that MMA has been approved sport in Nevada. During that time, the Nevada Athletic Commission has implemented several key initiatives for the industry:

- Instant replay for bout-ending injuries where the cause of the injury is in dispute
- Continued HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C testing of athletes
- In-training steroid and drug testing
- Fight night steroid testing
- Overturning a “win” if the victor tests positive for prohibited drugs or steroids

The Athletic Commission has also collaborated with the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health on the development of MRI and MRA testing for The Professional Fighters Clinical Research Study.

“It’s gratifying that our efforts in Nevada may inspire other jurisdictions,” said Kizer. *“We strive to be the model for how to regulate unarmed combat.”*

For more information about the Nevada Athletic Commission, visit <http://boxing.nv.gov/>.

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