



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF GAMING

TRIBAL GAMING • RACING • BOXING & MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

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## News Release

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### **Francisco Meneses, Jr. Appointed Executive Director of Arizona Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts Commission**

PHOENIX – Arizona Department of Gaming officials announced today the appointment of Francisco Meneses, Jr. as Executive Director of the Arizona Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts Commission. The Commissioners recognized Mr. Meneses' appointment at today's Commission meeting.

As Executive Director, Mr. Meneses will oversee all professional boxing and pro-am mixed martial arts events in Arizona, including kickboxing, muay thai and toughman. To maintain the integrity of the sanctioned bouts and protect the contestants' health and safety, Meneses will enforce applicable laws and rules, administer all required licensing and staff open public meetings of the Commission.

"I am excited that Mr. Meneses has joined the Arizona Department of Gaming as the new Executive Director of the Arizona Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts Commission," said Commission Chairman Scott Fletcher. "On behalf of the Commissioners, we are confident that Mr. Meneses' prior experience regulating boxing and mixed martial arts events in Arizona as an inspector, in combination with his law enforcement background, will support the continued advancement of these combat sports in our state."

Commissioner Joe Pennington commented, "The Commission expresses deep appreciation for the dedicated service, professionalism and leadership of Juan Estrada, outgoing Executive Director, whose legacy is punctuated by his valuable role in helping to update and expand Arizona's combat sports rules for the first time since the 1980s."

Mr. Meneses, a seasoned law enforcement officer with about 15 years' experience, has held both supervisory and investigative positions with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Arizona Department of Transportation and the Arizona Department of Gaming's Racing Division. In addition to applying state and federal laws, and the Arizona Administrative Code, Mr. Meneses' expertise includes conflict resolution, criminal investigation, team leadership, security/vulnerability assessment, event management, and communications.

"We are happy to welcome Francisco back to the Arizona Department of Gaming in his new role," said Dan Bergin, Arizona Department of Gaming Director. "As for promoters, fighters and other stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Gaming Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts Division, it's business as usual. Juan Estrada, outgoing Executive Director, will ensure continuity of service by supporting the Arizona Boxing & Mixed Martial Arts Commission through the transition."

#### **About ADG**

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) is the state regulatory agency for tribal gaming, pari-mutuel racing and wagering, and boxing and mixed martial arts. ADG also provides and supports education, prevention and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its Division of Problem Gambling and 24-hour, confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXTSTEP.

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