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Statement of Gloria Allred

We are here today to commend the California Athletic Commission (CAC) for taking quick and appropriate action to suspend the boxing license of boxer Kubrat Pulev until he could prove to CAC that he has completed an approved sexual harassment course and could show to the CAC today at the CAC meeting today that he is rehabilitated.

The CAC suspended Mr. Pulev after a video of Mr. Pulev went viral clearly showing him grabbing the face of and kissing on the lips, Jenny Ravalo, a reporter, as she was interviewing him in a post-fight interview. At the last meeting of CAC the Commission members clearly warned Mr. Pulev that he was not to engage in “slut shaming” of Ms. Ravalo.

While Mr. Pulev himself appears not to have made public derogatory statements about Ms. Ravalo since the last CAC meeting, his employer and promoter, Bob Arum, of Top Rank, who I believe as a matter of law is also Mr. Pulev’s agent and representative, has done what Mr. Pulev was warned not to do.

In an interview on IFL TV posted on YouTube on June 15, 2019, Mr. Arum made blatantly false statements about Ms. Ravalo including stating that Ms. Ravalo was “fooling around” with Mr. Pulev while Mr. Pulev was in training, months before the fight in question and that Ms. Ravalo was acting as Mr. Pulev’s “semi girlfriend before the fight.” Both Mr. Pulev and Ms. Ravalo both testified before the Commission on May 14, 2019 that they first met each other at the weigh in the day prior to the fight. Mr. Arum’s totally unfounded and false statements that Ms. Ravalo was hanging around Mr. Pulev as he was training for the fight and that she was his “semi girlfriend” demonstrate that both he (and it appears that his fighter, Mr. Pulev), have consciously decided to ignore and dismiss the Commission’s admonitions made to Mr. Pulev on May 14, 2019 to stop shaming Ms. Ravalo.

Not only did Mr. Arum make false and slanderous representations about Ms. Ravalo during the aforementioned interview, he belittled and criticized the Commission for requiring Mr. Pulev to attend a sexual harassment course as a condition of lifting his current boxing license suspension. Mr. Arum stated that it was “crazy that he [Pulev] has to take a course on sexual harassment...He [Pulev] did nothing wrong.” It seems clear to me that neither Mr. Pulev nor Mr. Arum accepts any responsibility for Mr. Pulev’s reprehensible conduct, battery and sexual harassment of Ms. Ravalo while she was conducting her interview of him on March 22, 2019, and the subsequent retaliation against her by attempting to “slut shame” Ms. Ravalo for having exposed Mr. Pulev’s sexual harassment of her.

Mr. Arum’s attack on the Commission for requiring Mr. Pulev to take a sexual harassment class and his referring to the Commission’s Order as “outrageous” and “crazy” demonstrates not only Mr. Arum and Mr. Pulev’s complete lack of remorse but in addition also evidences their lack of basic understanding of conduct that is deemed inappropriate pursuant to Business Professional Code § 18602 as well as C.C.R § 390, and their apparent contempt for the Commission’s Order. For example here are some additional quotes from Mr. Arum’s interview:

“I’m very sympathetic to uh, sexual harassment charges, if it’s real sexual harassment, not bullshit”

“I know what sexual harassment is, I really do, but that wasn’t sexual harassment”

“And I’m sure I’ll get in trouble when this goes out, that’s, that’s the way of the world and I don’t give a shit.”

I brought Mr. Arum’s statements and video interview to the attention of CAC in a letter that I sent to Mr. Foster, the executive officer of CAC on June 19, 2019. Mr. Arum is also licensed by the CAC, and I believe that Mr. Arum’s statements in his interview violate California Code of Regulations § 390 which states that “any licensee who conducts himself at any time or place in a manner which is deemed by the Commission to reflect discredit to boxing may have his or her license revoked, or maybe fined, suspended or otherwise disciplined in such manner that the Commission may direct.”

I believe that Mr. Arum's statement in support of or on behalf of Mr. Pulev, criticizing the decision of the CAC regarding Mr. Pulev and his utterance of false statements about Ms. Ravalo reflect discredit to boxing and that both Mr. Arum and Mr. Pulev should be sanctioned and disciplined by the CAC for Mr. Arum's statements.

Apparently the suspension of Mr. Pulev was not a teaching moment for Mr. Pulev and Mr. Arum.

I am disappointed that the CAC did not place Mr. Arum's outrageous and false statements on today's agenda and that the CAC did not decide to discipline Mr. Arum and Mr. Pulev for Mr. Arum's statements which have brought discredit to boxing and to the CAC.

Gloria Allred
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Representing Jenny Ravalo
July 22, 2019