



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Proposed 'Clan Wars' Mixed Martial Arts Competition at the Ulster Hall
Date:	12 January 2010
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, ext 3470
Contact Officer:	Tim Husbands, Head of City Events and Venues, ext 3459 Judith Owens, Operations Manager, Waterfront and Ulster Halls, ext 1304

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Waterfront and Ulster Hall management have been approached by Mr Paul McLaughlin from Clan Wars Promotions in relation to a proposal to stage a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competition at the Ulster Hall in May 2011.
1.2	The first Clan Wars Mix Martial Arts competition was held in January 2009. Planning for this inaugural event took 8 months and the event was fully sanctioned by the International Sport Kickboxing Association United Kingdom (ISKA). ISKA is a worldwide recognised regulating body for competitive martial arts, and the governing body for amateur and professional kickboxing. Since then the event has grown and Clan Wars have staged 5 further successful events, these have been held at the Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena and Armagh Conference Centre. The last 2 events attracted an audience of over 800. Clan Wars 6 is planned for 14 January at the Glenavon House Hotel, and the organisers are proposing that Clan Wars 7 take place at the Ulster Hall.
1.3	MMA have become an increasingly popular and recognised sporting activity with a high degree of regulation and significant national media interest in recent years. The Waterfront has facilitated successful kickboxing events previously and the Ulster Hall has recently staged 2 successful boxing events in a series of promotions by former World Boxing Champion, Barry McGuigan. The format, layout and procedures followed in the organisation of these events would be largely replicated in the case of the proposed Clan Wars event.

1.4	<p>Mr McLaughlin has been made fully aware of, and has fully committed to meeting the requirements and the procedures applicable to this type of event</p> <p>A pre event planning meeting has taken place and Mr McLaughlin has produced an event management plan which been drawn up based on recommendations made by the Ulster Hall events team. These recommendations include the use of the Ulster Hall's contracted event security company and liaison with PSNI.</p>
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2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Waterfront & Ulster Hall management are aware that the Belfast City Council took a decision to cancel a previous mixed martial arts event promoted by another unrelated company called "Last Man Standing" which was scheduled to take place at St George's Market. This decision was due to the inappropriate material included on the company's website. However, as the Ulster Hall has not previously staged a mixed martial arts event it was felt appropriate to, in this instance, seek Members guidance on the issue, prior to any approval being granted for the event to proceed.</p>

3	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	None.

4	Recommendations
4.1	<p>The Committee is asked to consider the request to stage the 'Clan Wars' event, and future Mixed Martial Arts events, in line with Waterfront & Ulster Hall operating guidelines.</p>

5	Decision Tracking
	None.

6	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>MMA – Mixed Martial Arts ISKA – International Sport Kickboxing Association</p>

7	Documents Attached
	<p>Clan Wars Event Plan Clan Wars Risk Assessment Clan Wars Critical Incident Report Form Clan Wars Health and Safety Policy</p>