

## **Boxing in California's Jurupa Valley, Fights for its Survival**

The Jurupa Valley Boxing Club and Capital Punishment Boxing Clubs, are engaged in a fight for their survival against indifferent City Officials and a County Parks and Rec Department that abandoned them.



## coalitiontosavejvboxing



### *Latino leaders denounce efforts of the City of Jurupa Valley to close down two boxing gyms amid the pandemic*

Jurupa Valley, CA - On Thursday evening of July 2, Latino leaders and community advocates will rally outside of the Jurupa Valley City Hall to demand that the City keep open two boxing gyms, the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club in Rubidoux and Capital Punishment Boxing in Mira Loma.

Community leaders are disturbed by the City's efforts to shut down these boxing gyms and by a proposal to create a homeless shelter out of the building that currently houses the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club. A group comprised of concerned community members calling itself the Coalition to Save Jurupa Valley Boxing is calling on the City Council and all local and county officials to invest in and keep the boxing gyms running at the service of the community.

With nearly 70% of Jurupa Valley residents being Latino, a large portion of working-class youth reap the benefits from two boxing programs in the communities of Rubidoux and Mira Loma. The sport of boxing has served as a positive outlet and provided role models for young people and it has become a source of pride for many Jurupa Valley residents. The Jurupa Valley Boxing Club, for instance, focuses on training many children, including rising 9-year-old boxing star Nadia "[La Panterita](#)" Diaz and a [team of girl boxers](#) that have made an impact on the boxing world.

World class fighters and trainers including boxing hall of fame member [Armando Muñiz](#), Henry Ramirez, and Willy Silva and champions such as [Chris Areolla](#), [Mauricio Herrera](#), [Sindy Amador](#), [Josecito Lopez](#), [Carlos Bojorquez](#) and many more have trained in Jurupa Valley at one point in their careers. World famous fighters, including current heavy weight champion [Tyson Fury](#), [Mikey Garcia](#), [Julio Cesar Chavez Jr](#), and others have trained and sparred in Jurupa Valley gyms in preparation for major fights.

Boxing programs disproportionately impact Mexican and Latino youth, as well as other working-class communities. For many in these working-class communities, boxing has been an avenue to find purpose, discipline and community amid a city that is known for its warehouse developments, smog, a toxic dump, and environmental degradation. Community members call on the city to keep both gyms open.

**WHAT:** Rally & Protest Highlighting the importance of boxing in the Latino and working-class communities of Jurupa Valley CA

**WHEN:** Thursday July 2, 2020 @ 6:30 pm

**WHERE:** Jurupa Valley City Hall, 8920 Limonite Ave, Jurupa Valley, CA 92509

**WHO:** Follow us on FB and IG, @CoalitiontoSaveJVBoxing

**Riverside, Jul 2, 2020 ([IssueWire.com](http://www.IssueWire.com))** - The [Jurupa Valley Boxing Club](#) in Jurupa Valley, California (Rubidoux) and the Capital Punishment Boxing Gym in Jurupa Valley (Mira Loma), is facing opposition from [Jurupa Valley City Officials](#) and have a rally and protest scheduled for July 2, 2020, at 6 pm, at the Jurupa Valley City Hall, to draw attention to the City's negative attitude towards the sport and these fixtures of the community that serve as models of gang diversion, physical fitness, community pride and service.

The Jurupa Valley Boxing Club, anon-profit 503 (c)(3), that relies upon community donations (<http://jvbc.net>) was founded in 2005 by 1968 U.S. Olympian and Professional Boxing Title Holder and Hall of Famer, Armando Muniz, with the support of former County Supervisor, John Tavaglione.

Muniz, one of few college graduates to fight professionally and win national and international championships (Muniz knocked out the legend, Jose Napoles, for the Welterweight World Title in Mexico City, but due to the corruption of WBC President, Jose Sulaiman, the battered and delirious Napoles' hand was raised in victory by the referee, several minutes after the fight had been stopped at the order of Sulaiman. This is known as "the greatest robbery in boxing history." The current WBC "President for Life", Mauricio Sulaiman, recently vowed to make things right with Muniz, before Napoles, who was ill, had passed, but failed to do so.). Muniz, who would star in hit television series such as ABC's "Taxi", would later teach at Rubidoux High School, minutes away from the Gym, for several decades, also coaching and leading its Wrestling program (Muniz was also a champion wrestler in College).

The [Capital Punishment Boxing Club](#), privately owned and operated by Charlie Perez, is located in the Jurupa Valley community of Mira Loma and like the Jurupa Valley club, has been a fixture in the community for many years and has been a frequent training and visiting stop for many of Boxing's world champions and contenders. This club has constantly faced adversity mounted against it by Jurupa Valley City Officials and with the uncertain reopening of the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club, will leave the city and area without a place for the local boxers, adults and kids to learn the discipline, sport and art of Boxing known as the "Sweet Science" that has allowed so many to become productive citizens and members of their communities, represent them and the United States with pride, and stay out of a life of crime.

Today, July 2, 2020, at 3 pm, Jurupa Valley Boxing Club Board Members: Armando Muniz, Juan Mercado, Herman Montes and Tommy Sevilla, will meet with Jurupa Valley's Mayor and other [City Officials](#), to hear why the City is opposed to supporting their existence - officially yet, a March City Council Meeting and word from City Officials to others, including a JVBC Board Member, has already made their position and intentions known. The City of Jurupa Valley considers the Boxing Club to be a financial burden and eyes the building where they've operated in for more than a decade as a future "homeless shelter". However, nearby residents have yet to be informed of these plans.

The current home of the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club at 5626 Mission Boulevard, Riverside, CA 92509, is a building owned by the Riverside County Economic Development Agency and has been leased to the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club Foundation for \$1 a year, but current plans seek to void that agreement and make use of it in a different way.

The Jurupa Valley Boxing Club and Capital Punishment Boxing Club seeks the public's financial help and moral support. A rally is planned for today, July 2, 2020, at 6 pm by the newly formed "Coalition to

Save the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club". The affected boxing clubs request the community's support and the media's attention and presence.

Alfredo Diaz - JVBC Trainer and father of local youth boxer, Nadia "La Panterita" Diaz, recently produced a video regarding the gyms' current situation and it can be viewed on [You Tube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Tax-Deductible Donations to the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club can be made at: <http://jvbc.net>

Press Inquiries can be made to:

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12. CONSIDERATION OF ANY ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR  
13. PUBLIC HEARINGS  
A. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER MASTER APPLICATION (DRAWING, PERMITS, ETC.) FOR A 28-SINGLE-FAMILY LOT SUBDIVISION OF A 7.25-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED WEST OF HUDSON STREET BETWEEN 46TH AND 50TH STREETS, APN: 165-188-027 (APPLICANT: SHORES & TALAMAN)  
By consensus, the City Council continued this item to the April 2, 2020 meeting in order for the applicant to attend the public hearing.  
Ayes: C. Barajas, L. Barajas, B. Berkson, M. Goodland, A. Kelly  
Noes:  
14. COUNCIL BUSINESS  
A. MID-YEAR BUDGET PRESENTATION AND AMENDMENTS  
By consensus, the City Council continued this item to a later date.  
Ayes: C. Barajas, L. Barajas, B. Berkson, M. Goodland, A. Kelly  
Noes:  
B. REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL DIRECTION RELATED TO THE ACQUISITION OF THE ERBE DIEZ SMITH SENIOR CENTER AND THE JURUPA VALLEY BOXING CLUB  
George Wente, Deputy City Manager presented the Staff Report. Mr. Wente reported that the County of Riverside has offered a potential acquisition of the Elder Day South Senior Center and the Jurupa Valley Boxing Club noting that if the City of Jurupa Valley declines to acquire the operations by July 1, 2020, that both facilities will be closed and



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