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Statement of Clarence Watley

I am the father of Rasheedah Watley. Rasheedah is the former girlfriend of NFL football player Brandon Marshall. On August 22, 2008 I wrote and sent a lengthy letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. In that letter I told Commissioner Goodell that Rasheedah had for the past three years been physically, verbally and mentally abused by Brandon Marshall since his senior year at UCF.

Rasheedah has always been an independent young lady. She moved out of our home at the age of 17, got a job, went to school and paid for her own apartment, furniture, car and anything else she needed. She has always been self-sufficient and asked nothing of me or any other family member. She relinquished all of this and more when Brandon Marshall decided that it was time to have Rasheedah in his life. Brandon Marshall had been pursuing her and stating that he was going to marry her since the eighth grade.

In my letter to Commissioner Goodell, I told him that I wanted to express my feelings and distress of how disappointed I was in the way the Denver Broncos had handled this situation since Brandon Marshall's draft into the Broncos organization. The Denver Broncos by their own admission during the draft stated that Brandon Marshall had maturity issues. The Denver Broncos had knowledge of Brandon Marshall's abusive behavior towards our daughter for over 2 1/2 years. In fact, I was contacted by the staff of the Denver Broncos over 1 1/2 years ago about an abusive incident by Brandon Marshall against our daughter Rasheedah, an incident that I had no knowledge of. I was asked by this staff member to give Mr. Marshall another chance; that he would be able to change. He did change, he became more abusive. I told Commissioner Goodell that I had been in contact with the Broncos staff throughout this whole nasty affair in hopes that the Broncos would step in and help our daughter in this situation and give Mr. Marshall some type of counseling, advice, whatever would enable him to either stop being abusive or walk away from the relationship. The Broncos handled this whole situation shabbily and unprofessionally. The Broncos ignored and allowed Mr. Marshall's behavior to go on for 3 years unchecked with no interest in the safety or well-being of my daughter. I hold the Broncos accountable and maintain that they were a contributing factor to this ongoing abuse, because of their lack of genuine concern in regards to Brandon's behavior and for their total disregard for Rasheedah and her life.

I told him that I was troubled with the fact, that he, Commissioner Goodell had completed his investigation and given out his penalty with no contact with the victim or her family whatsoever. I told him that I was not quite sure how his office conducted an investigation without any contact with the victim, her attorney, her family or any witnesses to this abuse. I stated that it did not seem that he was upset about the injuries or abuse to the victim, but instead seemed only to be concerned with how the NFL has been victimized by all of

the publicity. Brandon Marshall has all of the charm of exactly what team he represents, the Broncos. He was, in my opinion an out of control, buck wild, unbridled bronco.

I let the Commissioner know that I thought that he, along with the Broncos, had treated Rasheedah unfairly and had only lightly penalized Mr. Marshall after a one-sided incomplete investigation. It is just mystifying that with all of the evidence, witnesses, pictures, police reports, and everything else that existed in Rasheedah's case that he reached the conclusion that he did.

I am a former college football player as well as a father. I am appalled by Commissioner Goodell's behavior in my daughter's case. I now believe that Commissioner Goodell should resign and that the NFL should adopt Ms. Allred's suggestions for a fairer process in order to protect victims of violence by NFL players.

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