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## **Statement of Kristeena Spivey**

My experience with the NFL as well as Roger Goodell, has been very poor to say the least. Sadly, the encounter that I had with Mr. Goodell was due to many unfortunate incidences that took place with an NFL player.

In or about 2002, I was introduced to a very handsome and charming young boy through my best friend, Rasheedah Watley. This boy seemed to have a good head on his shoulders since he managed to stay out of trouble and pursue his dream of becoming a football player. While they did not date at that time, by 2005 Brandon Marshall would become Rasheedah's very serious boyfriend. So much so, that she decided to pick up and move to Florida to be with him. I was not too far behind. I would visit them often and we shared many fun times together.

In April 2006, Rasheedah, her family, Brandon, his family and myself shared one of his greatest moments in life. He was accepted into the draft. While he did not go until the  $4^{\rm th}$  round, we were very proud of how far he had come. And how his hard work truly paid off.

In the wee hours of June 17, 2006 I received the very first, of what seemed like a hundred, calls from Rasheedah crying on the other end of the line. She told me that she was hiding in the bushes from Brandon who had "allegedly" punched her in the face. While I was not present to confirm or deny the incident, I sent her a plane ticket to get home that very same morning. I pulled up to the airport nervous, scared and confused. I did not want to believe that Brandon would ever harm Rasheedah. My doubt quickly faded when I saw her walk out of the airport. She had blood in her severely swollen lips, her hair was disheveled, there were tears running down her face and puffy eyes of what I thought were from crying. It was not until later that day that the color of her beautiful face and her sweet eyes would overcome with black shadowing.

I cannot go in to detail with every incident. There are too many to count; however, I became a direct victim of Brandon Marshall on June 8, 2007. I was awakened by a call from Rasheedah. I could hear Brandon in the background yelling at her. I immediately jumped into the car and drove to their condo in downtown Atlanta. When I arrived, Rasheedah was outside with her hair again disheveled, and a gaping wound in her thigh. It was bleeding profusely. I told her that she needed to go to the hospital. She seemed hesitant, but I was ready to end this mischief once and for all. I called the police to have Brandon arrested. In many other incidents he would always flee the scene. I did not want that to happen again. While speaking to the emergency

dispatcher and awaiting the arrival of the police, we saw Brandon get into his vehicle. He drove up behind us and proceeded to ram the back of my car, reversing and pulling forward to hit us a second and third time.

After ramming my vehicle, Brandon exited his car and located a boulder of cement. Once he retrieved the cement, he threw it into the passenger side of the front door where Rasheedah was sitting. He demanded she get out of the car. I was in fear for her and my safety. Brandon finally jumped in his car and drove away once again before the police arrived, 12 minutes after my initial call.

On March 5, 2008, I went to rescue Rasheedah Watley from Brandon Marshall once again. After arriving to the condo they shared, Brandon had my vehicle towed from the property. I later drove Rasheedah to the Fulton County Courthouse and we both filed Temporary Restraining Orders against Brandon. A criminal warrant was issued.

That same day, Brandon began circling the property in his vehicle. After numerous sites of Brandon, I called Roger Goodell to see if he could speak some sense into Brandon. Mr. Goodell told me that he would look into the incident. A few weeks later, I emailed him with the same concerns. I never received a call from him or the NFL as a victim, regarding my fear and concerns. A few months after, the NFL stated that Brandon Marshall would get a 3 game suspension; however, it was reduced to a 1day suspension by the time the season began.

Roger Goodell and the NFL have failed me as a victim. I only hope that they take Domestic Violence more serious now! How many women will have to die or pass on the abuse from themselves to their children, who will either become victims themselves or perpetrators. In 2007, Commissioner Goodell called Michael Vicks acts against animals "reprehensible" and suspended Vick indefinitely. Does that mean that women's lives, safety and worth are less than those of dogs?

Thank you!

**September 17, 2014**