

Name: ***

School: ***

Committee: NFL Owners Club

Delegation: ***

Topic Area A: Violent Crimes

Although NFL players are less likely to be arrested due to violent crimes than other men in their age demographic, we must continue to ensure these rates decline. Since the men's every move is being watched by millions and contorted by the media, it is imperative that violent crimes not only be handled appropriately but also displayed appropriately in the media. The new personal conduct policy has only the best of intentions but has been challenged by the NFLPA, stating certain aspects are contradictory to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. This new policy had been meticulously constructed using extensive insight from players and owners and I believe it should be upheld. Currently, under the new Personal Conduct Policy, players are required to remain on paid leave while the NFL Special Council for Investigations and Conduct investigates the offense and until criminal proceedings conclude. During this leave, it may prove beneficial to institute strict rules about the release of case details to the press. This does not infringe on First Amendment rights because there will no publication ban will be enforced but this enhances the Sixth Amendment, the right to a fair trial as well as protecting victims from public backlash. Heavily monitoring and controlling the release of case details until the initial case closes and the appeal process begins protects against jurors having predetermined stances on the cases and upholds the integrity of the trial. I believe that only the charge and no specifics should be released until the official conviction of the accused party. In addition, to ensure justice is not

obstructed, these measures make certain that those found innocent do not gain as much negative notoriety.

In addition, it is my firm belief that any player convicted of a felony should be removed from the National Football League effective immediately after the resolution the case. Currently, those convicted of felonies are not allowed to vote for two years after the end of parole. If even the power to vote is stripped from these offenders, so should the privilege to play for the NFL. This seemingly harsh punishment would not only ensure players maintain the utmost standards of personal conduct, but encourages fans to deglamorize this “gangster” life style, realize severe actions have severe consequences, and stop using players’ actions as justification for their own.

Topic Area B: Redskin's Logo

The Washington Redskin's logo and name may be well meaning with only the most respectful intentions, yet some still view the term as a racial slur that is offensive to many Native American cultures. In order to change the name and logo, a temporary financial strain would exist, to be bared by the Redskins and the National Football League. Even at the high end of the predicted cost of the switch, twenty million dollars, this team has a net worth of 1.56 billion dollars, and the cost required to update the stadium and promotional materials is marginal compared to their profits. Although the majority of the population voted against a name and logo change, this would lead to immense amounts of positive publicity, for the team and the National Football League, on an international scale due to their tolerance and removal of what some consider a racial slur from their program.

The National Football League does have the power to force a name change and I believe at this time, forceful action is not necessary but immense pressure should be placed on the team's ownership and media coverage of the issue should be increased to potentially convince Daniel Snyder to initiate a name change. If the name is not officially changed within two and a half years, the NFL should force a name change.

Dan Snyder claims the name is rooted in respect. If this is true, it would be in his and the league's best interest to release a public statement, explaining in detail the respectful implications. In addition, if the majority of Native American leaders accept this public statement in regards to the name, cultural council should be sought for the logo. The logo should be checked for accuracy and redesigned to be correct and no longer offensive to these traditional groups.

Topic Area C: Concussions

Reported concussions affect one out of every three players in the NFL. In recent years, the National Football League has made strides in reducing these numbers, including the targeting and Edelman rules, yet too many players' lives are being ruined by repeated head trauma. In addition to suffering mental problems, many experience financial ruin later in life. To make matters worse, the media and the public understand severity of the issue, yet the NFL refuses to concede and admit there is a serious problem.

The first step to solving this issue is admitting there is an epidemic. Currently the league is under heavy fire that they do not care about the players' safety when in reality it is a huge concern. One efficient alternative that would reduce concussions as well as preserve the sport's violence is by updating safety technology. This technology already exists, especially three interesting innovations by the University of Washington, Viconic, and the United States Army. These inventions, turf underlays that soften falls, updated helmets, and braces to prevent fast snapping of the neck and spine, could help every aspect of player safety, not just concussions. The most interesting in relation to concussions is the Viconic helmet. Currently the NFL has no rules regarding use of a standard helmet. First of all, I believe it is imperative to create new rules mandating the use of a few specific, tested and specialized, helmets. Helmets must be specialized for players' positions because the impact level and range of motion varies widely. Requiring specific helmets designed to absorb that NFL players are subject to.

Finally, many NFL players have limited higher education and weak resumes causing many to face financial hardship after leaving the league. A large quantity of this money often goes to medical bills for problems stemming from time in the NFL. In order to combat this issue, the National Football should offer financial planning services and literacy classes. In addition by

rerouting some of players' current paychecks to a bank account dedicated solely to medical expenses. This program would resemble a 401K system and team owners may be able to offer matching up to a certain percent. By dedicating some of their current salaries, they will never have to worry about being unable to afford professional attention.

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