

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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June 30, 2023

Mr. Roger Goodell  
Commissioner  
National Football League  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154

Dear Mr. Goodell:

I write with regard to the National Football League's (NFL) investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct and financial malfeasance against Washington Commanders owner Daniel Snyder. More than a year has passed since your pledge to "share the results of that investigation," yet, to date, no part of the information has been released to the public. In light of the impending sale of the Commanders franchise, I urge you to honor your commitment to release the report in its entirety and "take additional disciplinary action if warranted."<sup>1</sup>

In February 2022, following Committee Democrats' roundtable with former Commanders employees regarding the organization's toxic workplace culture, the NFL announced it had retained Mary Jo White, a former U.S. Attorney and Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to investigate new allegations of sexual misconduct against Mr. Snyder. The League confirmed that Ms. White's findings would be released publicly at the conclusion of her investigation and that you would personally determine whether the League would "take any further disciplinary action."<sup>2</sup> In April 2022, after Committee Democrats referred to federal and state law enforcement agencies new evidence that the Commanders may have engaged in financial misconduct, including intentionally withholding millions of dollars in refundable security deposits owed to customers and concealing revenue from the NFL to evade the team's obligations under the League's revenue-sharing agreement, the League confirmed that Ms. White's investigation would expand to include these new allegations.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on Oversight and Reform, *Hearing on Tackling Toxic Workplaces: Examining the NFL's Handling of Workplace Misconduct at The Washington Commanders*, 117th Cong. (June 22, 2022) (online at [www.congress.gov/event/117th-congress/house-event/114933/text](http://www.congress.gov/event/117th-congress/house-event/114933/text)).

<sup>2</sup> *NFL Hires Former U.S. Attorney, SEC Chair to Investigate Daniel Snyder and Commanders*, Washington Post (Feb. 18, 2022) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2022/02/18/mary-jo-white-commanders-dan-snyder/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2022/02/18/mary-jo-white-commanders-dan-snyder/)).

<sup>3</sup> *NFL Confirms Mary Jo White is Investigating the Financial Allegations Against the Washington Commanders*, NBC Sports (Apr. 13, 2022) (online at [www.nbcsports.com/nfl/profootballtalk/rumor-mill/news/nfl-confirms-mary-jo-white-is-investigating-the-financial-allegations-against-the-washington-commanders](http://www.nbcsports.com/nfl/profootballtalk/rumor-mill/news/nfl-confirms-mary-jo-white-is-investigating-the-financial-allegations-against-the-washington-commanders)). Committee Democrats' investigation reportedly resulted in additional investigations by several state attorneys general and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. See, e.g., *Commanders Fined \$250K, Must*

I understand from reports that Ms. White has informed lawyers and witnesses who agreed to participate in her investigation that she expects the NFL to release her full report—and not just the findings—to the public.<sup>4</sup> I am heartened by this stated commitment to full transparency, which is not only consistent with League precedent and your admirable commitments to this Committee but necessary given the “extraordinary public interest in this matter.”<sup>5</sup>

As you have previously recognized, with one of the most prominent platforms in America, “the NFL is held to a higher standard, and properly so.”<sup>6</sup> You now have an opportunity to show the American people—and, most importantly, the victims of the Commanders’ toxic workplace—that you will adhere to this higher standard by ensuring transparency and accountability, by releasing Ms. White’s full report, and by taking additional action consistent with the findings of the report.

The Committee on Oversight and Accountability is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X.

Sincerely,

  
Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

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*Refund Ticket Deposits in Settlement with MD. AG*, Washington Post (Nov. 18, 2022) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2022/11/18/maryland-ag-settles-with-commanders-over-ticket-deposit-refunds/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2022/11/18/maryland-ag-settles-with-commanders-over-ticket-deposit-refunds/)) (describing investigations by the NFL, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, and the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia attorney’s general offices, resulting from the Committee’s investigation).

<sup>4</sup>*Sources: Dan Snyder Seeks to Limit Release of Inquiry Report*, ESPN (May 12, 2023) (online at [www.espn.com/nfl/story/\\_/id/37611790/dan-snyder-lobbying-nfl-limit-release-mary-jo-white-report](https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/37611790/dan-snyder-lobbying-nfl-limit-release-mary-jo-white-report)).

<sup>5</sup> Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, *Report to the National Football League Concerning Issues of Workplace Conduct at The Miami Dolphins* (Feb. 14, 2014) (online at <https://workplacebullying.org/multi/pdf/PaulWeissReport.pdf>) (In explaining the NFL’s decision to publicly release the 144-page report detailing the findings of the months-long investigation into allegations of bullying and racial and sexual harassment at the Miami Dolphins, counsel for the NFL wrote “[b]ecause of the extraordinary public interest in this matter, the Commissioner made the decision that the full Report as presented to him, without any redactions or modifications, will be released to the public.”) *See also* Robert S. Mueller III, *Report to the National Football League of an Independent Investigation into the Ray Rice Incident* (Jan. 8, 2015) (online at [www.documentcloud.org/documents/1392348-muellerfinalreport.html](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/1392348-muellerfinalreport.html)); Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, *Investigative Report Concerning Footballs Used During the AFC Championship Game on January 18, 2015* (May 6, 2015) (online at <http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/Deflategate.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> *Roger Goodell Letter to NFL Owners*, ESPN (Aug. 28, 2014) (online at [www.espn.com/nfl/story/\\_/id/11425532/roger-goodell-letter-nfl-teams-domestic-violence-policy](https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/11425532/roger-goodell-letter-nfl-teams-domestic-violence-policy)).