



Thomas L. Battles, Jr.
Grand Polemarch

The Grand Chapter
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP SINCE 1911
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

August 10, 2017

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue, Suite 12
New York, NY 10017-1216

RE: Colin Kaepernick, 2012 NFC Champion

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

The more than 120,000 members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (the "Fraternity") are among the millions around the globe who recognize and consider the National Football League ("NFL" or the "League") to be the world's premier spectator sport. Our Fraternity proudly includes honorable achievers from all walks of life, including members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, present and former League executives and staff, broadcasters, agents, fans, coaches, and players, including Mr. Colin Kaepernick.

Since our founding at Indiana University in 1911, Kappa Alpha Psi always has stood as a champion for freedom and service in the public interest. To our knowledge, Mr. Kaepernick has not broken any laws, he has not been accused of breaking any laws, and he is not under investigation by the League for allegedly breaking any laws. As such, this is a letter of support for our fraternity brother and an appeal to the Office of the Commissioner to right the wrongs, spoken and unspoken, that find Mr. Kaepernick, a recent NFC Champion, blackballed solely for exercising his Constitutional right to free speech.

Mr. Kaepernick status as a social pariah within League circles emanated from doing nothing more than kneeling "silently" during the National Anthem. Although politically unpopular within certain groups and not bold enough among other groups - including members of our Fraternity on both sides of the issue - Mr. Kaepernick's decision to take a stand arose out of the seemingly endless series of incidents that far too often finds young, unarmed black and brown males, like him, dead or mortally wounded after law enforcement encounters. Few people of goodwill and reason would argue against the notion that enough is enough.

The start of any new NFL season is one of hope, promise and opportunity for owners, players and fans alike. Unfortunately, we are concerned that without a clear and unmistakable signal from the League Office that an equitable resolution to Mr. Kaepernick's plight (not to mention other pending disciplinary decisions by the League) must come quickly, the growing public calls for boycotts of NFL games, the NFL Network, League merchandise, and League sponsors will become louder and bolder. The economic impact alone will be significant. The distraction before, during and after NFL games about the so-called "Kaep Watch", already a story line in its own right, will become even more pronounced as the many teams overlooking Mr. Kaepernick's talents and skills struggle at the quarterback position on the field.

Rebirth, Reclaim, Recommit, By Leaving No Brother Behind

Mr. Roger Goodell, Commissioner

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To these ends, we urge the League Office to issue a public statement signaling an "all clear" around team efforts to work out or negotiate with Mr. Kaepernick. To the extent any facilitation is needed, Kappa Alpha Psi hereby offers its services, pro bono, to ensure a long overdue, constructive dialogue returns one of the League's best and the brightest to the gridiron.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas L. Battles, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Thomas L. Battles, Jr.
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