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By Electronic Mail
December 13, 2022

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Ranking Member Comer:

We are writing to you as the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. While we acknowledge the authority of Republican members to release a memorandum in response to the Committee's final report of its investigation into the Washington Commanders' toxic workplace culture, we strongly object to the sexualized and salacious photographs that the GOP gratuitously and inexplicably appended to its December 7, 2022 memorandum. These photographs, which show women's breasts, buttocks and genital areas, were apparently disseminated to advance team owner Daniel Snyder's persistent but discredited narrative that Bruce Allen, and not Mr. Snyder, was responsible for the sexually hostile and misogynistic team culture.

As you may know, we represent more than 40 former Washington Commander employees, six of whom testified on February 3, 2022, before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, and many others who over the past year met with Committee members and staff of both parties, and testified in connection with the Committee's investigation into the Washington Commanders' toxic workplace culture and the NFL's languid response and cover up of this scandal. It appears that some of our clients are represented in these photographs, which depict numerous cheerleaders from the Commanders and other NFL teams, along with other unidentifiable women.

Our clients are both humiliated and incensed by the GOP's reckless dissemination of these photographs in an official Congressional document. They also feel retaliated against by Republican Committee members who have apparently chosen to embarrass them publicly for coming forward. There was simply no legitimate reason for GOP members to have done this, and it has caused our clients additional and unnecessary pain. Our clients believe that releasing these photos was a desperate effort to protect Mr. Snyder from the scathing findings contained in the Committee's final report, at their expense.

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We must also note that if Republican Committee members truly believed that Mr. Allen's distribution of these emails and images – which your memorandum describes as “incredibly offensive” – proves that it was he who created the sexually hostile work environment at the team, why would they think it appropriate to disseminate these sexualized images even more broadly in an official Congressional document? Obviously these photographs could have been referenced in the memorandum but not attached. Rather than show consideration to the many women who came forward to the Committee to share their experiences of objectification and sexual exploitation while employed by the team, Republican members of the Committee chose to subject them to more of the same.

We demand that these photographs – which have no place in an official Committee document – be removed at once from Congressional servers, websites, and if applicable, the Congressional record. Our clients also want assurances these photographs will never be used in such a manner again.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lisa J. Banks



Debra S. Katz

cc: Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney
House Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy
House Republican Whip Steve Scalise
House Republican Conference Chair Elise Stefanik