

Contact: Gloria Allred
Phone: 323-653-6530
Email: gallred@amglaw.com

Statement of Gloria Allred Regarding Roger Goodell Press Conference

Roger Goodell's statement fell short of what it needed to be. For example, he talked about due process for players but not once did he talk about due process for the victims of violence by NFL players. He even evidenced uncertainty about whether or not the NFL should conduct a separate investigation while law enforcement is conducting their investigation. Of course he should conduct a separate investigation immediately because as the saying goes "justice delayed is justice denied".

I pointed out earlier this week that some alleged victims of violence had been excluded from the investigative and hearing process. Nothing that Commissioner Goodell said today increased my confidence in the integrity of the NFL's current process for handling such cases.

The integrity of the NFL is at risk if it does not make sure that victims are included in the NFL process and not shut out or sidelined. Victims must be made to feel safe and know that their statements matter and that even if they cannot or will not speak to the NFL, that evidence about the misconduct and/or crimes inflicted upon them will be taken seriously and not discounted or ignored.

The NFL still has a long way to go to restore the public's confidence that it will do the right thing for victims of violence by NFL players.

Gloria Allred
Attorney at Law
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