



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner

August 24, 2007

Mr. Michael Vick
c/o Joel Segal
President
Worldwide Entertainment
471 North Broadway, Suite 393
Jericho, New York 11753

Dear Michael:

Earlier today, the government filed your plea of guilty to a federal criminal charge of conspiracy arising out of your role in an interstate dog fighting enterprise. Specifically, you pled guilty to Conspiracy to Travel in Interstate Commerce in Aid of Unlawful Activities and to Sponsor a Dog in an Animal Fighting Venture, a felony punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, 3 years of supervised release, and other penalties. In the agreed Statement of Facts filed earlier today, concurrently with your plea agreement, you admitted to the following conduct:

1. To purchasing a piece of property at 1915 Moonlight Road, in Smithfield, Virginia, to be used for housing and training pit bulls for fighting. (Statement of Facts at 7-8.)
2. To gambling activities in violation of Virginia law, and to providing most of the money for gambling in connection with the dog fights. (Statement at 4.)
3. Establishing a dog fighting enterprise called "Bad Newz Kennels," testing animals to determine whether they would be good fighters, and knowing that dogs that did not perform well were killed. (Statement at 12.)
4. Sponsoring dogs in fights in Virginia and other states. (Statement at 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29.)
5. Testing dogs in April, 2007 to determine if they would be good fighters, agreeing to kill 6-8 dogs that did not perform well in those testing sessions, and that the dogs died as a result of the collective efforts of you and your co-defendants Peace and Phillips. (Statement at 32.)

Apart from your own admissions, your three co-defendants also pled guilty and agreed to factual statements that confirm your substantial involvement in this enterprise. Among the actions admitted to by your co-defendants – actions for which you are also responsible – are the following:

1. Each co-defendant admitted his role in sponsoring dog fights at the Moonlight Road property. (Taylor at 3; Peace at 3; Phillips at 3.)
2. Each co-defendant admitted his involvement in the “Bad Newz Kennels,” including that this enterprise bred dogs for fighting in Virginia and other states. (Taylor at 6, 9-11; Peace at 4, 6-7, 47; Phillips at 4, 6-9, 47).
3. Each co-defendant admitted that he sponsored dogs in fights, and did so with you. (Taylor at 21, 31-2, 38, 40, 44, 47, 50, 53; Peace at 13-14, 20, 23, 26, 29-30, 32, 35, 39, 42; Phillips at 6, 22-23, 31-32, 35-37, 39, 42, 45.)
4. Each co-defendant admitted that the dog fighting venture included illegal gambling. (Taylor at 4; Peace at 4; Phillips at 4.)
5. Each co-defendant admitted that the “Bad Newz Kennels” operation and related gambling monies were funded almost exclusively by you. (Taylor at 4; Peace at 4; Phillips at 4.)
6. Two of your co-defendants admitted that in April of 2007, they tested dogs to determine if the animals would be good fighters, that they “executed” dogs that did not perform well in the tests, and that you personally participated in both the testing and the killing of the dogs. (Peace at 46; Phillips at 46.)

Your admitted conduct is not only illegal, but also cruel and reprehensible. The conduct your co-defendants have admitted to, in which you are directly implicated, simply reinforces that conclusion. Your team, fans and the NFL have all been hurt by your actions. You have lied to your teammates and coaches, to the Falcons’ owner and management, and also to me.

Your plea agreement and the plea agreements of your co-defendants also demonstrate your significant involvement in illegal gambling. Even if you personally did not place bets, as you contend, your actions in funding the betting, and your association with illegal gambling both violate the terms of your NFL Player Contract, and expose you to corrupting influences in derogation of one of the most fundamental responsibilities of an NFL player.

Quite apart from whatever sentence is ultimately imposed upon you by the federal court in Virginia, your conduct plainly merits a significant sanction by the NFL. You have engaged in conduct detrimental to the welfare of the NFL and have violated the League’s Personal Conduct Policy.

