

FROM THE DESK OF PETER J. SCHAFFER, ESQ.

March 16, 2023

## STATEMENT BY PETER SCHAFFER, JOE MIXON'S AGENT

We have been informed by Hamilton County Prosecutor Melissa Powers and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office that no charges will be filed against Joe Mixon based on their investigation of the incident that took place at Joe's Cincinnati residence on March 6. This is the conclusion we expected based on the facts that clearly show Joe is innocent.

We have waited to make a statement to allow the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office time to perform due diligence and complete their investigation. Since the incident, there has been a great deal of coverage filled with inaccurate reports, misinformation, and just plain fabrications. We want to point out some relevant facts that have not been made public or need elaboration to clear up any discrepancies.

A few weeks prior to the incident, Joe's address was improperly released to the public. After his address was released, Joe became the victim of multiple threats of physical harm and harassment on social media

and at his residence in Cincinnati. These threats have been well documented.

Prior to March 6, Joe had been out of town visiting family in California. He returned to Cincinnati and his house on March 6. He was accompanied that evening by his sister, her five children, her male companion, and his physical therapist in the house.

On the night of the incident, a number of vehicles pulled up in front of Joe's house and blocked the street. This occurred when it was very dark outside. Joe and his physical therapist witnessed multiple people exit the vehicles carrying what appeared to be weapons as they ran into neighbors' yards. One individual was observed going into the trunk of his vehicle, screaming instructions, and retrieved what appeared to be a long gun (at the time it appeared to be a "Kel-Tec" rifle). The individual ran up a back driveway of the residence yelling "F\*\*\* yeah."

Threats against your life, cars blocking the streets, people running through the neighborhood with what appear to be firearms. Joe and his physical therapist felt threatened and feared for their safety and the safety of the small children in the residence. At this time, Joe called the Bengals director of security to have police dispatched immediately to the residence as he feared for the wellbeing of everyone in the residence. The physical therapist called 911 from a separate room. This 911 call recording has been made public and clearly shows the level of fear and concern in his voice from the situation as he was hiding behind a column in the house. The adults inside then instructed the five small children to race to the basement to shelter in place out of harms way.

Joe went outside for the purpose of trying to figure out what was going on outside his house. Joe had no intention to confront anyone, nor did he. He did not intend to threaten anyone, nor did he. He did not intend to shoot anyone, nor did he. He witnessed an individual carrying what appeared to be a rifle racing directly towards his property as the individual continued to bark instructions. When another individual discharged a firearm, Joe interceded to stop the person discharging a firearm.

Joe hates that a young adult was injured during this incident. He has been involved in youth activities in various capacities since joining the Bengals and calling Cincinnati home. His goal has always been to help our youth, not harm them.

It is now understood that the young adults were playing a game which involves running around neighborhoods performing paramilitary movements with plastic guns designed to look like real weapons. This is an activity that is known to and acknowledged by both the local school district and the sheriff's department. This is clearly a serious issue, and we join with all concerned parents, youth groups, teachers, and other school districts to look at this game and help find ways to encourage safe and smart participation during daylight hours. An immense tragedy was narrowly avoided in this instance. We can't allow any other young adults to be placed in this type of peril.

Any further questions or if you wish to discuss please contact Peter Schaffer. 720 998 8880 or Peterschaffer8@gmail.com