



MARK LAMPING
PRESIDENT

October 6, 2017

Mr. Bill Spann
Director, Military Affairs & Veterans Department
City of Jacksonville
117 W. Duval Street, #175
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Bill,

On behalf of Shad Khan and Tom Coughlin, I would like to thank you for meeting with us on Thursday and, above all, candidly sharing your thoughts on topics that are important not only to everyone who was in Shad's office that morning, but to all of Jacksonville and our nation as well.

As I noted during our meeting, my wife and I have been fortunate to call Jacksonville our home since early 2012, just after Shad purchased the Jaguars. It didn't take long for us to understand and respect the presence and impact of the military community on our new hometown, and the day-to-day influence you have had on our lives since then has been truly remarkable. Speaking for Shad and Tom, who has known for many years how you've positively shaped the personality and reputation of our city, this letter provides an opportunity to pay our gratitude for making Jacksonville much more than a football town. We thank you.

It bears repeating that we were remiss in not fully comprehending the effect of the national anthem demonstration occurring on foreign soil has had on the men and women who have or continue to serve our country. Similarly, we today can better appreciate how standing for God Save The Queen may have been viewed negatively by our armed forces here in Jacksonville and beyond. As covered during our conversation on Thursday, this was an oversight and certainly not intended to send a message that would disparage you, our flag or our nation. That notion never entered the minds of our players or anyone affiliated with the Jacksonville Jaguars, but today we can understand how the events in London on September 24 could have been viewed or misinterpreted. **We owe you an apology and hope you will accept it.**

In times of social and societal unrest there is often talk about the importance of advancing the conversation to understand and ultimately solve whatever challenges or differences may exist. Actually having those conversations, at least in a meaningful fashion, is sometimes difficult. We cannot thank you enough for engaging with us in a discussion intended to chart a path for our continued and successful partnership – and friendship – here in Jacksonville. Mind you, we were not surprised, but we are grateful all the same.

We are here at all times to work with you, and for you, toward the result we all want – a Jacksonville community that is united on all fronts. For Shad and Tom, I thank you again for being our partner in this endeavor in past, today and well into the future.

Sincerely,



Mark Lamping

