



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

August 4, 2009

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner

Lee Nystrom
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Member, Board of Directors
NFL Alumni
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Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

Bruce Laird
Member, Board of Directors
NFL Alumni
20 Stoneridge Ct.
Baltimore, MD 21239

Gentlemen:

I write to reply to your recent letter regarding the status of pension and disability payments to retired players.

Like you, I have seen statements attributed to DeMaurice Smith and other union representatives suggesting that retired players will have their pension or disability payments sharply reduced during an uncapped 2010 season. Simply put, those claims have no basis in fact. Indeed, in all of my conversations with DeMaurice Smith, he has never raised this subject with me. Had he done so, my answer would have been clear and unequivocal – there will be no reduction in pension or disability payments to retired players during 2010.

The facts are that since at least the Fall of 2007, the owners have consistently agreed and planned that they will not reduce the funding for pension or disability benefits for retired players. Nor will they reduce funding for the 88 Plan during the uncapped year.

Messrs. Nystrom, Carson and Laird

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While the clubs may exercise their right to reduce benefit payments for current players in the 2010 uncapped year, no retired player will have his pension or disability payments reduced. Please share this information with the members of the Alumni Association so there is no further confusion on this important point.

I appreciate your contacting me and hope you will keep the lines of communication open between our offices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Goodell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

ROGER GOODELL

cc: Mike Ditka, Gridiron Greats
Jerry Kramer, Gridiron Greats