

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

March 23, 2023

Mr. Bruce Sherman
Chairman and Principal Owner
Miami Marlins
501 Marlins Way
Miami, Florida 33125

Dear Mr. Sherman:

Prior to the World Baseball Classic semifinals game between the United States and Cuba, the Miami Marlins made assurances that restrictions on free speech, sought by the Baseball Federation of Cuba, would not be tolerated. However, your franchise reneged on both the letter and spirit of that commitment.

When the gates opened, your security personnel denied entry to ticketed guests wearing shirts with pro-freedom and/or anti-regime messages, claiming no “political messages” would be allowed. After widespread public outrage on social media, security relented and began to allow guests to enter, stating it was due to miscommunication. But that was not the end of it.

Contracted security personnel, operating under the direct and personal supervision of some of the highest-ranking executives in your franchise, specifically targeted spectators who were visible on the television broadcast, especially those seated behind home plate. Among other things, they attempted to expel the daughter of a slain Cuban democracy activist for holding up a pro-democracy sign. Also, your security personnel seated themselves next to spectators in the first two rows and harassed them throughout the evening over the anti-regime shirt they were wearing and the pro-freedom for Cuba sign they had in their hands, which was clearly visible to a world-wide audience. The senior management of your franchise were signaling to specific spectators they wanted to target. Inexcusably, your security personnel employed tactics reminiscent of those one would expect in Cuba, not in the United States of America.

These atrocious actions happened in a city where a substantial percentage of your fan base are not just victims of the tyranny your franchise sought to appease, but to taxpayers which funded the very stadium your team plays in. After enjoying their stay at a local five-star hotel, the Cuban Baseball Federation returned to the enslaved island of Cuba (minus one brave defector). However, the community your franchise treated with such disrespect is still here, and will not soon forget.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator