



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

## *General Manager John Dorsey on RB Kareem Hunt signing 2-11-19*

### **General Manager John Dorsey:**

#### **Opening statement:**

“I want to thank everybody for coming this evening. I do understand in situations like this the complexities of the issues and the questions that you will have. I thought it would be best addressed face to face in these situations.

“I just want to let everybody know that we have done extensive research with regards to this case with this player. At the end of it, the one thing we did find was he understands and takes full accountability for the egregious act he committed. He is extremely remorseful for his actions. What he has done is he has sought professional counseling. With regards to moving forward, anything like this situation, once he understands his situation, he is now working toward being a better man moving forward. By no means from an organizational standpoint is this a guarantee of anything. As we all know, trust has to be earned, and that has to be earned with the Cleveland Browns organization and the community of Cleveland moving forward. This will be a day-to-day thing in terms of earning trust.”

#### **On if Hunt has personally apologized to the victims involved in the incidents:**

“I can’t speak in terms of the conversations he had with regards to the victim. We have talked to numerous people in doing our extensive research with this. He is truly remorseful for what he has done. He understands the act that he has committed is wrong, and he is now trying to make himself better from the actions that were displayed here.”

#### **On if Hunt has since volunteered time with organizations dedicated to ending violence against women and helping women who have been victims of abuse:**

“I am sure one of the plans that we will have moving forward here, I know that he has actually sought professional counseling here on a week-in and week-out basis. Part of the plan that will be in place here is being able to reach out to the community on a weekly basis for him.”

#### **On the potential message sent to the community when signing Hunt so soon after an incident including violence against a woman:**

“We have done our extensive research. At the end of the day in terms of doing our research, we came away that the act was egregious; he is extremely remorseful for that moving forward. I have always believed that it is important moving forward to if a person wants to better themselves moving forward and be a better person, I am willing to give them a chance. In terms of doing all the deep research that I have done, I believe that he will be a better man today than he was yesterday.”

#### **On where the team stands on violence against women:**

“I think ownership has spoken on that before. I’m not going to be the spokesperson for the organization with regards to that.”

#### **On the benefit of signing Hunt, given the team’s current RBs:**

“That is competitive depth. With any situation like this, what you attempt to do is get your facts, understand the situations involved, understand who the person is and who drives that person. I keep coming back to this – there are no guarantees. You are going to have to earn the trust in this situation. I truly believe that he will be a better man moving forward than he was in the past.”



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

---

---

**On what type of person deserves a second chances, given past history with giving players second chances like Chiefs WR Tyreek Hill:**

“I think it’s a case-by-case basis. I think every time you go through these very difficult situations and these types of actions, you have to study everything from the person and then find out are they willing to be better people moving forward. This happens to be one of those situations where at the end day, the organization was comfortable moving forward with signing this player.”

**On if Hunt deserves a second chance:**

“In my opinion, yes.”

**On gauging Hunt’s sincerity and remorse:**

“It is talking to people. It is talking to multitudes of people. It is sitting or having conversations with him and understanding the depth of him. Does he truly understand the actions that have transpired? Is he willing to move forward and develop himself as a person and be able to treat other people the way he wants to be treated? I think that is how you go about this.”

**On trusting Hunt’s word, given he benefits from saying those things:**

“I think it is deeper than that. To me, words don’t earn trust. Actions earn trust. The actions have begun to be developed, and he has shown and led us to believe that he is willing to move forward here on this.”

**On his message to women on the Browns staff, including Dee Haslam:**

“I think we are all appalled by it. It is an egregious act. We all understand that, but after doing our research, extensive research and analyzing the situation, we came to the conclusion that I’m willing to help a man with a second chance moving forward to be a better person. That is all you can ask for in society, and that is all all I’m trying to do.

**On if he thinks it is too soon to give Hunt a second chance:**

“I don’t.”

**On if he has spoken to women impacted by violence as part of his research and the victim still having ability to press charges with the statute of limitations:**

“I can’t speak in that regard. The first part of your question is that when I was back in Kansas City, I talked to those types of organizations that you said. I have not here, but I will here moving forward.”

**On if he has any idea when the NFL will make a decision on a suspension:**

“It is my understanding that they are going to begin to wrap up their investigation. I would say within a couple weeks the penalty will be told to everybody.”

**On his communication with the league:**

“Really, we haven’t had extensive communication. The only part of that was just trying to find out when the investigation would be wrapping up. They haven’t given us any clear definitive deadline on that moving forward.”

**On if he has talked to any current Browns players about potentially signing Hunt:**

“No, I did not.”

**On if Hunt is a good representation of what it means to be a Cleveland Brown:**

“I know today at the end of the day, you have to earn those stripes. You have to earn that. You earn that by making the final 53 roster. There are no guarantees in anything.”

**On if signing Hunt makes RB Duke Johnson Jr. expendable:**



# CLEVELAND BROWNS TRANSCRIPT

---

“I think Duke Johnson is a fine football player. What it does is you have three very quality, really four quality individuals with three veterans on there now. I don’t think it makes him expendable yet. What you have to do is you have to go back and research your options and see moving forward what is best for the organization.”

**On trading RB Carlos Hyde last year and it seeming logical that the Browns would trade someone this year:**

“That is a situation I think you deal with that down the road.”

###