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**COPY**

FEB - 8 2024



CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA**

**IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

Richard Kuehner on his own behalf, and  
on behalf of his son, Tristan Kuehner,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Billy Leist and his parents/guardians  
Lori Leist and William Leist; Jacob  
Meisner and his parents/guardians,  
Wendi Meisner and Anthony Meisner;  
Kyler Renner and his parents/guardians,  
Travis Renner and Rebecca Renner;  
Tyler Freeman and his  
parents/guardians, Dawn Buckland  
Freeman and Tim Freeman; Treston  
Billie and his parents/guardians, Tami  
Billie and Christopher Billie; Clayton  
Oden and his parents/guardians, Jane  
Doe Oden and Jeremy Oden; Mason  
Joesten and his parents /guardians, Danja  
Joesten and David Joesten; Owen Hines  
and his parents/guardians, Laura Hines  
and William Hines; Mason Lander and  
his parents /guardians, Jamie Lander and  
Theodore Lander; Jack Woods and his  
parents /guardians, Kelly Woods and  
Gary Woods; Chase Lopez and his

No.

CV2024-050542

**COMPLAINT**

Civil Conspiracy; Assault and Battery

1 parents/guardians, Kelly Lopez and  
2 Tony Lopez; Mikey Scudieri and his  
3 parents/guardians, Lisa Scudieri and  
4 James Scudieri; Addison Benesh and his  
5 parents/guardians, Jessica Benesh and  
6 Ben Benesh; Noah Rifenburg and his  
7 parents/guardians, Christopher  
8 Rifenburg and Christina Rifenburg;  
9 Lindsey Gewecke and her parents/  
10 guardians, Michael Gewecke and Jill  
11 Gewecke; Jacob Pennington, a single  
12 adult; Christopher Fantastic, a single  
13 adult; Gage Garrison, a single adult; Aris  
14 Arredondo, a single adult; Deleon  
15 Haynes, a single adult; and Does 1-100,

Defendants.

### **Introduction to the Gilbert Goons**

14 1. Local media in Maricopa County, Arizona, have reported that for more  
15 than a year before the filing of this Complaint, a group of affluent teenagers living in  
16 Gilbert, Arizona, agreed and conspired to commit assault and battery on innocent and  
17 unsuspecting teenagers.

18 2. Local media further reported the group conspired to take videos of the  
19 attacks and other illegal behavior and to post and exchange the videos on social media,  
20 for their own illegitimate purposes.

21 3. Local media obtained and published these videos.

22 4. Local media further reported that members of the group called themselves  
23 the Gilbert Goons, both among each other and to the community.

24 5. On December 27, 2023, azcentral.com posted a 95-second video showing  
25 a series of apparently unprovoked gang assaults that were reportedly posted among  
26 members of a Snapchat group on various media platforms.

1 [https://www.azcentral.com/videos/news/local/gilbert/2023/12/27/compilation-of-gilbert-  
3 goons-attacks/72041894007/](https://www.azcentral.com/videos/news/local/gilbert/2023/12/27/compilation-of-gilbert-<br/>2 goons-attacks/72041894007/)

3 6. On December 30, 2023, the Arizona Republic reported that certain  
4 residents reported attacks by a gang calling themselves the “Gilbert Goons,” and the  
5 news agency reported the existence of seven videos documenting these attacks.

6 [https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/gilbert/2023/12/30/who-are-gilbert-goons-  
11 what-to-know-about-teen-gang-in-phoenix-  
12 area/72060798007/#:~:text=They%20have%20posted%20photos%20and%20videos%20  
13 of%20their%20attacks%20on%20social%20media.&text=The%20Republic%20has%20  
14 documented%20seven,and%20East%20Williams%20Field%20Road.](https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/gilbert/2023/12/30/who-are-gilbert-goons-<br/>7 what-to-know-about-teen-gang-in-phoenix-<br/>8 area/72060798007/#:~:text=They%20have%20posted%20photos%20and%20videos%20<br/>9 of%20their%20attacks%20on%20social%20media.&text=The%20Republic%20has%20<br/>10 documented%20seven,and%20East%20Williams%20Field%20Road.)

11 7. On January 8, 2024, KTAR news reported that the Gilbert Police  
12 Department was opening or reopening 8 cases of assault and battery by teenagers that  
13 could involve the “Gilbert Goons.”

14 [https://ktar.com/story/5556458/police-investigating-8-teen-violence-cases-that-could-be-  
16 linked-to-gilbert-goons/](https://ktar.com/story/5556458/police-investigating-8-teen-violence-cases-that-could-be-<br/>15 linked-to-gilbert-goons/)

16 8. On about January 11, 2024, Defendant Jacob Pennington admitted to the  
17 Pinal County Sheriff’s Office that he was a Gilbert Goon.

18 [https://www.santanvalley.com/san-tan-valley-area-information/san-tan-valley-  
21 news/man-arrested-in-beating-of-teen-boy-in-pinal-county-admits-ties-to-gilbert-goons-  
22 paperwork-says](https://www.santanvalley.com/san-tan-valley-area-information/san-tan-valley-<br/>19 news/man-arrested-in-beating-of-teen-boy-in-pinal-county-admits-ties-to-gilbert-goons-<br/>20 paperwork-says)

21 9. Defendant Pennington further informed sheriff’s investigators that “the  
22 moniker originated from a Snapchat group chat.” *Id.*

23 10. On January 28, 2024, the Gilbert Police Chief Michael Soelberg stated:

24 *It is now becoming clear that some individuals may be*  
25 *associating themselves with the term Gilbert Goons and we*  
26 *now have an active investigation in collaboration with our*  
*law enforcement partners to determine if the “Gilbert*

1                    *Goons*”, can be classified, under Arizona law, as a criminal  
2                    *street gang.*

3 [https://www.gilbertaz.gov/Home/Components/News/News/5827/1379?backlist=%2Fdep](https://www.gilbertaz.gov/Home/Components/News/News/5827/1379?backlist=%2Fdepartments%2Fpolice)  
4 [artments%2Fpolice](https://www.gilbertaz.gov/Home/Components/News/News/5827/1379?backlist=%2Fdepartments%2Fpolice)

5                    11. While the name “Gilbert Goons” entered the public discourse in Maricopa  
6 County in late 2023, Plaintiff is aware that some teenagers in the Gilbert area were  
7 aware of the group’s existence and some of its members for more than a year.

8                    12. Plaintiff is aware that some teenagers in Gilbert and surrounding  
9 communities understood the Gilbert Goons’ primary purpose was to harass, intimidate,  
10 and attack unsuspecting teenagers, and to circulate videos of the attacks to further  
11 harass, embarrass, intimidate, encourage additional attacks, and attempt to humiliate  
12 their victims.

13                    13. In furtherance of the conspiracy, videos show members of the so-called  
14 Gilbert Goons luring unsuspecting teenagers to neighborhood parties where they would  
15 lie in wait (*see* the videos referenced in Paragraph 30).

16                    14. The videos show some participants committing the actual attacks; some  
17 encouraging the attacks; some recording the attacks; and some facilitating the attacks by  
18 surrounding the victims to prevent escape (*see* the videos referenced in Paragraph 30).

19                    15. Local media report that in furtherance of the conspiracy, for more than a  
20 year, members of the so-called Gilbert Goons assaulted numerous unsuspecting  
21 teenagers and adults (*see* paragraphs 5-10, *supra*).

22                    16. Local media report that in furtherance of the conspiracy, the so-called  
23 Gilbert Goons posted videos of the attacks online as a showcase of the series of assaults.  
24 *Id.*

25                    17. Local media report that in furtherance of the conspiracy, some of the so-  
26 called Gilbert Goons provided drugs and alcohol to other Gilbert Goons which  
invariably contributed to the brutality of the attacks. *Id.*

1           18.    Videos show the attacks had and continue to have a common theme, which  
2 is an attack on a teenager who had done nothing wrong whatsoever. (*see* the videos  
3 referenced in Paragraph 30).

4           19.    Videos show the attacks had and continue to have a further common  
5 theme, which is multiple attackers ganging up on and attacking a single defenseless  
6 victim. (*see* the videos referenced in Paragraph 30).

7           20.    Publicly available arrest records show some attackers used such weapons  
8 as boots and brass knuckles in their attacks.

9           21.    After some attacks, so-called Gilbert Goons threatened to kill at least one  
10 victim if he reported the attacks.

11           22.    After some attacks, the Gilbert Goons continued terrorizing their victims  
12 by texting threats of further violence and even death threats, including texting pictures of  
13 guns.

14           23.    Before and after some attacks, the Gilbert Goons continued terrorizing  
15 their victims by contacting the victim's family members, driving by their homes, and  
16 knocking on their doors.

17           24.    From news reports and Plaintiff's own experience, the young and  
18 completely innocent victims of these assaults suffered skull fractures, facial fractures,  
19 broken and missing teeth, concussions, and other serious injuries.

20           25.    The conspiracy culminated in the murder of 16-year-old Preston Lord by  
21 certain members of the Gilbert Goons in late October of 2023.

22           26.    Even after Preston was murdered, members of the gang continued  
23 harassing at least one innocent and unsuspecting teenager and his family in the Gilbert  
24 area.

25           27.    Videos show that each of the minors named in this Complaint has  
26 committed or contributed to assault and battery in public (*see* the videos referenced in  
Paragraph 30).

1           28.    Videos show that the minors named in this Complaint committed or  
2 contributed to assault and battery and other crimes in the open public. *Id.*

3           29.    Videos show that each of the minors named in this Complaint knew that  
4 recordings of their criminal acts would be disseminated to third parties and to the public  
5 whereby they have no reasonable expectation of privacy. *Id.*

6           30.    Upon information and belief, each of the following individuals committed  
7 assault and battery in public (*see* videos 1-15 at the following link:

8 [https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4hcschnzjjszzgout4fja/h?rlkey=quaxk7448h5rrd1sc09](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4hcschnzjjszzgout4fja/h?rlkey=quaxk7448h5rrd1sc09wf8pi8&dl=0)  
9 [wf8pi8&dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4hcschnzjjszzgout4fja/h?rlkey=quaxk7448h5rrd1sc09wf8pi8&dl=0) ).

- 10           a. Billy Leist (*see* videos 2 and 13);  
11           b. Jacob Meisner (*see* videos 1, 8, 9, 13 and 14);  
12           c. Kyler Renner (*see* videos 1 and 9);  
13           d. Tyler Freeman (*see* videos 8, 9, 12 and 13);  
14           e. Treston Billie (*see* videos 1, 3 and 11);  
15           f. Clayton Oden (*see* videos 1 and 2);  
16           g. Mason Joesten (*see* videos 1, 3, 10 and 11);  
17           h. Owen Hines (*see* videos 11 and 13);  
18           i. Mason Landers (*see* video 2);  
19           j. Jack Woods (*see* videos 1, 9 and 13);  
20           k. Chase Lopez (*see* video 2);  
21           l. Mikey Scudieri (*see* video 2);  
22           m. Addison Benesh (*see* videos 2 and 12);  
23           n. Christopher Fantastic (*see* videos 2 and 14);  
24           o. Jacob Pennington (*see* video 13);  
25           p. Gage Garrison (*see* videos 1 and 8); and  
26           q. Aris Arredondo (*see* video 2).

31.    The Defendant mothers/fathers/guardians of the Defendants who appeared in

1 attack videos in public and who presently are minors, or who at relevant times were  
2 minors, are as follows:

- 3 a. Billy Leist: Lori Leist and William Leist;
- 4 b. Jacob Meisner: Wendi Meisner and Anthony Meisner;
- 5 c. Kyler Renner: Travis Renner and Rebecca Renner;
- 6 d. Tyler Freeman: Dawn Buckland Freeman and Tim Freeman;
- 7 e. Treston Billie: Tami Billie and Christopher Billie;
- 8 f. Clayton Oden: Jane Doe Oden and Jeremy Oden;
- 9 g. Mason Joesten: Danja Joesten and David Joesten;
- 10 h. Owen Hines: Laura Hines and William Hines;
- 11 i. Mason Lander: Jamie Lander and Theodore Lander;
- 12 j. Jack Woods: Kelly Woods and Gary Woods;
- 13 k. Chase Lopez: Kelly Lopez and Tony Lopez;
- 14 l. Mikey Scudieri: Lisa Scudieri and James Scudieri;
- 15 m. Addison Benesh: Jessica Benesh and Ben Benesh;

16 32. Certain attackers in the referenced videos may not have been minors at  
17 times relevant to this complaint whereby their parents/guardians are not named as  
18 Defendants—Jacob Pennington, Christopher Fantastic, Gage Garrison, Aris Arredondo,  
19 and Deleon Haynes.

20 33. Not all who Plaintiff has heard are associated with the Gilbert Goons are  
21 recorded in these videos and therefore they are not named in this Complaint.

22 34. Plaintiff has not identified all who participated in the referenced videos,  
23 although Plaintiff believes some unidentified attackers may be among the list in  
24 Paragraph 31, *supra*.

25 35. From what Plaintiff has heard from local residents, these videos do not  
26 document all attacks and other criminal acts members of the gang committed over the  
past several years.







1 the group identified in Paragraph 30 (a-q) entered into an agreement and conspiracy to  
2 commit, contribute, encourage, or otherwise facilitate assault and battery on  
3 unsuspecting teenagers and to exchange videos of the attacks.

4 60. Prior to the attack on Tristan Kuehner as detailed herein, each member of  
5 the so-called Gilbert Goons identified in Paragraph 30 (a-q) made an affirmative act in  
6 furtherance and ratification of the agreement and conspiracy, as evidenced by the videos  
7 referenced herein.

8 61. At all times relevant, Plaintiff understands and alleges that Defendant  
9 Lander, Defendant Lopez, Defendant Scudieri, Defendant Oden, Defendant Fantastic  
10 and Defendant Benesh have appeared in multiple attack videos and have been and  
11 continue to be Gilbert Goons.

12 62. In late July of 2023, Tristan started his junior year at Perry High School of  
13 the Chandler Unified School District.

14 63. Defendant Lander was in one of Tristan's classes.

15 64. For reasons still unknown to Plaintiff and his son Tristan, Defendant  
16 Lander and Defendant Lopez decided that Tristan would be a Gilbert Goon victim.

17 65. Defendant Rifenburg, Defendant Lander and Defendant Lopez began  
18 threatening Tristan.

19 66. Defendant Rifenburg's threats included a death threat—texting a picture  
20 to Tristan of Defendant Rifenburg loading a gun (*see* Exhibits 1-3).

21 67. Defendant Lopez also made a death threat to Tristan —texting a picture of  
22 a gun pointed at the camera with the message “do we understand each other?” (*see*  
23 Exhibit 4).

24 68. Tristan told Rick about the threats, and Rick notified the staff at Perry  
25 High School.

26 69. After providing notice of the threats to Perry High School, the attempts to  
intimidate intensified.

1           70. On one such attempt, two cars with teenagers believed to include Gilbert  
2 Goons drove up to the Kuehner's' home.

3           71. Rick was outside, and one of the drivers, Defendant Lindsey Gewecke,  
4 made uncomfortable small talk with him.

5           72. At the same time Tristan, who was inside the home, received a text  
6 message with a picture of the open Kuehner garage, taken by somebody in one of the  
7 cars at that exact moment.

8           73. Tristan sent a text message to Rick: "they're here."

9           74. Rick called 911 and paced nervously.

10          75. Before the police arrived, the two cars left the area.

11          76. About one week later, on August 18, 2023, Tristan went to In-N-Out  
12 Burger with a friend.

13          77. The police reports and videos in Plaintiff's possession document a truck  
14 full of Gilbert Goons, including Defendant Lander, Defendant Lopez, Defendant  
15 Scudieri, Defendant Fantastic, Defendant Oden, and Defendant Benesh in the parking  
16 lot.

17          78. One Defendants who Plaintiff has not heard to be members of the Gilbert  
18 Goon, Defendant Haynes, was with them.

19          79. Eight of the Defendants attacked Tristan almost immediately and with no  
20 provocation whatsoever, surrounding him, hitting him, and kicking him in the head  
21 while he was on the ground.

22          80. A video of the attack can be found as Video 2 referenced in Paragraph 30.

23          81. Photographs show some of Tristan's injuries (*see* Exhibits 5 and 6).

24          82. The photographs do not show the severe concussion Tristan suffered.

25          83. After the attack, one of the so-called Gilbert Goons told Tristan he would  
26 be killed if he told anybody about it.

          84. Tristan drove home and immediately told Rick what happened.

1           85.    Tristan went to the hospital that night and a police report was generated.

2           86.    After the attack, as was their custom, members of the so-called Gilbert  
3 Goons continued to threaten Tristan.

4           87.    Rick feared that Tristan would be assaulted again and sustain a more  
5 severe injury or even be killed.

6           88.    Neither the Gilbert Police Department nor Chandler Unified School  
7 District was willing to intervene to protect Tristan.

8           89.    Left with no other choice, Rick made the difficult decision to withdraw  
9 Tristan from high school and send him overseas to live with his mother, where he lives  
10 as of the filing of this Complaint.

11           90.    As of the filing of this Complaint, the following have been arrested for  
12 attacking Tristan: Defendant Lander, Defendant Scudieri, Defendant Fantastic,  
13 Defendant Benesh, Defendant Arredondo, and Defendant Haynes.

14           91.    Tristan suffered physical injuries because Gilbert Goons and others  
15 attacked him.

16           92.    Tristan suffered and continues to suffer emotional harm because Gilbert  
17 Goons and others threatened, attacked, and attempted to intimidate him.

18           93.    As a result of his physical injuries, Tristan has lost time training and  
19 competing in swimming, losing valuable and necessary time to maximize his chances for  
20 college scholarships and Olympic qualifying.

21           94.    As a result of the continued threats and attempts to intimidate, Tristan was  
22 forced to move overseas in the middle of a very successful high school career, leaving  
23 behind his friends, his church and pastor, his swim club and world-class coaches, and his  
24 father.

25           95.    Because Tristan was forced to move away, Rick suffered a loss of  
26 consortium.

**COUNT ONE—CIVIL CONSPIRACY**



1 on August 18, 2023.

2 106. One act of intimidation included posting videos of the attack on Tristan to social  
3 media, to “brag” about the attack against Tristan, to inflict damage on Tristan, and to encourage  
4 Gilbert Goons to attack other unsuspecting victims.

5 107. Defendant Rifenburg committed assault by his text messages to Tristan which  
6 included a death threat.

7 108. Defendant Gewecke committed assault by driving to the Kuehner's' home to  
8 intimidate Tristan and Rick.

9 109. The unknown occupants of the two vehicles and their parents and guardians are  
10 among the Doe Defendants.

11 110. As a result of the assaults described herein, Tristan suffered physical and  
12 emotional injuries, and financial harm in medical bills, lost scholarship opportunity, lost  
13 swimming opportunity, and lost income opportunity.

14 111. As a result of the assaults described herein, Rick suffered and continues to suffer  
15 a loss of consortium.

16 **COUNT THREE—ASSAULT AND BATTERY**

17 **(against Defendant Lander, Defendant Lopez, Defendant Fantastic, Defendant**  
18 **Arredondo, Defendant Scudieri, Defendant Benesh, Defendant Haynes, and Defendant**  
19 **Oden)**

20 112. Rick hereby reasserts all previous allegations.

21 113. On August 18, 2023, Tristan was attacked by multiple defendants, most of them  
22 Gilbert Goons, at the In-N-Out Burger.

23 114. Tristan was completely innocent, having done nothing whatsoever to provoke the  
24 attack.

25 115. These defendants committed a vicious battery, with multiple goons attacking  
26 Tristan at once, hitting him, kicking him in the head, and causing serious injuries.

116. As a result of the assault and battery described herein, Tristan suffered physical

1 and emotional injuries, and financial harm in medical bills, lost scholarship opportunity, lost  
2 swimming opportunity, and lost income opportunity.

3 **117.** As a result of the assault and battery described herein, Rick suffered a loss of  
4 consortium.

5 **COUNT FOUR—INTENTIONAL INFLICTION of**  
6 **EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

7 **(against Defendant Lander, Defendant Lopez, Defendant Fantastic, Defendant**  
8 **Arredondo, Defendant Scudieri, Defendant Benesh, Defendant Haynes, and Defendant**  
9 **Oden, Defendant Rifenburg and Defendant Gewecke)**

10 118. Rick hereby reasserts all previous allegations.

11 119. The conduct described above, including violence, threats, intimidation, and  
12 public celebration of assaults is extreme and outrageous by community standards.

13 120. By engaging in threats and intimidation, including death threats,  
14 Defendant Lander and Defendant Lopez engaged in conduct intended to cause Tristan  
15 emotional distress, or which they should have known would cause Tristan emotional  
16 distress.

17 121. By attacking Tristan on August 18, 2023, Defendant Lander, Defendant  
18 Lopez, Defendant Fantastic, Defendant Arredondo, Defendant Scudieri, and Defendant  
19 Oden knew or should have known their actions would cause Tristan emotional distress.

20 122. As a result of their conduct as described herein, Tristan suffered physical  
21 and emotional injuries, and financial harm in medical bills, lost scholarship opportunity,  
22 lost swimming opportunity, and lost income opportunity.

23 123. As a result of their conduct as described herein, Rick suffered and  
24 continues to suffer a loss of consortium.

25 **COUNT FIVE—STATUTORY LIABILITY**

26 **(against each of the parents/guardians of each minor Defendant identified**  
**herein)**







1 with his mother, to ensure his safety from Gilbert Goons; and for his lost income, loss of  
2 scholarship opportunity, and lost economic opportunity by the disruption of his  
3 promising swimming career;

4 D. Punitive and exemplary damages against each of the attackers and Gilbert  
5 Goons who were involved in direct threats and direct assault and battery, namely  
6 Defendant Fantastic, Defendant Arredondo, Defendant Lander, Defendant Lopez,  
7 Defendant Scudieri, Defendant Oden, Defendant Benesh, Defendant Rifenburg,  
8 Defendant Deleon, and Defendant Gewecke, to be applied and paid jointly and severally,  
9 in amounts appropriate to adequately punish them and deter others from engaging in  
10 similar misconduct;


11 E. Statutory compensation against each parent/guardian of each Gilbert  
12 Goon, jointly severally, pursuant to A.R.S. 12-661;

13 D. Prejudgment interest;

14 F. Such other relief as the Court may deem proper.

15  
16 Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024.

17 **KELLY & LYONS, PLLC**

18 By:   
19 Richard D. Lyons  
20 Jason M. Kelly  
*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

21 **ORIGINAL** of the foregoing filed  
22 this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2024:

23 Clerk of Superior Court  
24 Maricopa County Superior Court  
25  
26

Rule 80(c) Declaration

I have read the Complaint to which this Declaration is attached. Pursuant to Rule 80(c), Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, I swear under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

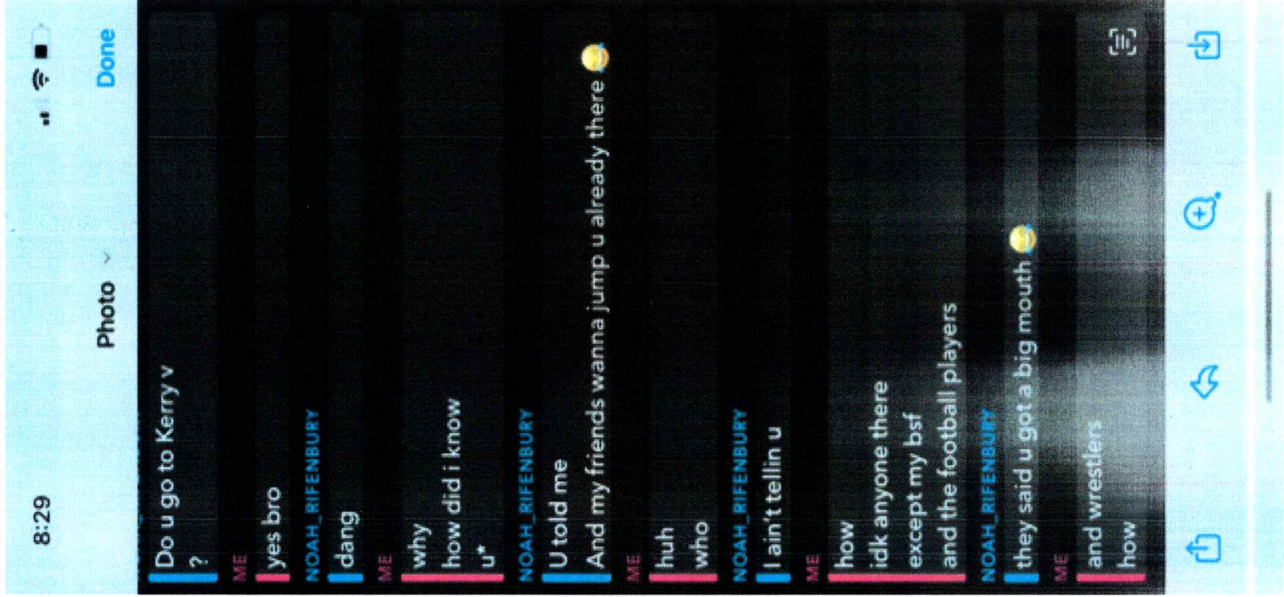
Richard Kuehner

Richard Kuehner

02/07/2024

Date

# **EXHIBIT 1**



# EXHIBIT 2

8:29



Photo ▾ Done

and u getting urs 😊

ME

i'm in all AP  
i doubt they are in so

NOAH\_RIFENBURY

Ok they still said ur getting urs

YOU SAVED A SHOT IN CHAT

ME

right now

NOAH\_RIFENBURY



YOU SAVED A SHOT IN CHAT

YOU RECEIVED A SHOT

NOAH\_RIFENBURY

What's up

YOU TOOK A SCREENSHOT OF CHAT

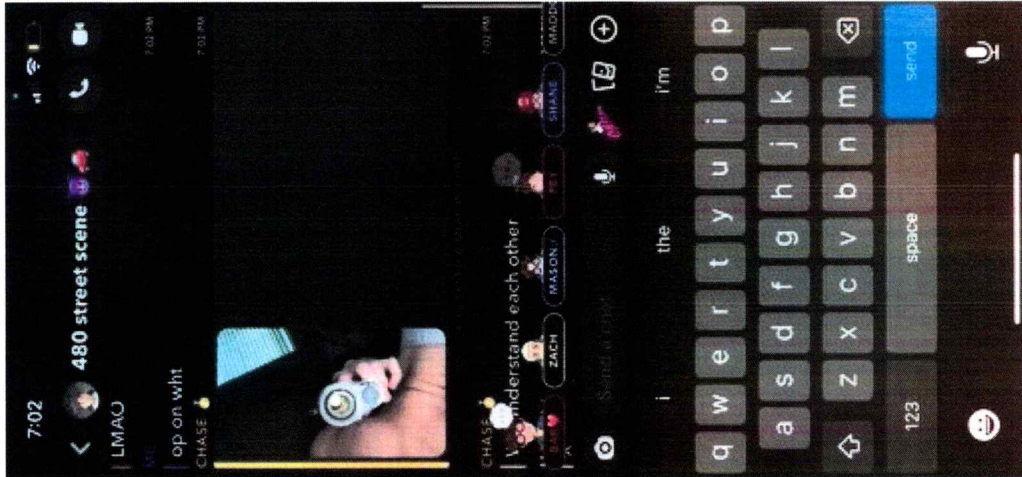


# EXHIBIT 3





# **EXHIBIT 4**



# **EXHIBIT 5**



# **EXHIBIT 6**

