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Op-Ed

The claims from Brian Flores that the New York Giants conducted a “sham” interview for the head coaching position are entirely false. The Giants organization searched for a new head coach and hosted several diverse candidates for interviews, in addition to prior team research. The New York Times article stating that the New England Patriots head coach, Bill Belichick, would have any insight into the Giants organization and its decisions is disrespectful to the integrity of the team. Additionally, Daboll and the Times write accusations claiming the New York Giants only hosted Flores for an interview due to the Rooney Rule. This National Football League-wide rule says all teams are required to interview ethnic-minority candidates for head coaching and senior football operation jobs. This was not the case with the Giants. The New York Football Giants have taken every step in the right direction to further its mission for greater diversity, equity and inclusion.

Brian Flores was the head coach of the Miami Dolphins for three years. Shortly after his firing, the Giants organization reached out and expressed interest in hiring Flores. These phone calls and text interactions were all made about two months prior to the official start of the interview process. This is a clear indication of the Giants having very real intentions of hiring Flores. When the time of the official interview had arrived, Brian Flores was given a full tour of the Giants facilities. It was throughout this meeting that Flores and general manager Joe Schoen

discussed the direction of the team. Though this interview allowed the Giants to fulfill the Rooney Rule requirement, the rule was not a contributing factor toward the decision to interview Flores. The Giants found Flores knowledgeable and worthy of hiring; the two options for the final decision were Flores and Daboll (current head coach of the New York Giants).

In the New York Times article, it claims the Giants had already extended the head coaching position to Daboll prior to the interview with Brian Flores. This false accusation was brought by Daboll and the source was New England Patriots head coach, Bill Belichick. Brian Flores was hosted for his in-person interview at the Giants facility on Thursday, January 27, 2022. The final decision of who would fill the Giants' head coaching position was made on Friday, January 28, 2022. The suggestion of any decisions having been made prior to the evening of the 28th is untrue. Brian Flores presented a text exchange between Belichick and himself which states “I think they are naming Daboll. I’m sorry about that. BB”. The timestamp of this text was the day before Brian Daboll’s in-person interview. Under no circumstances would the organization hire anyone based on a 20-minute virtual conversation. The Giants would like to be perfectly clear in noting that Bill Belichick is in no way affiliated with or speaks on behalf of the New York Football Giants.

The Giants feel strongly about diversifying the organization as a whole and that starts from within. The team employs 291 persons and 39% of employees are persons of color. The Giants believe there is always room for improvement in regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion and it is important for the NFL as a whole to do its part. The claims written in part by the New York Times amplify the falsities brought by Brian Flores’ complaints and accusations.