

## **JOHN SCHNATTER STATEMENT ON LITIGATION WITH PAPA JOHN'S INTERNATIONAL OVER DOCUMENT AND RECORDS REQUEST**

Mr. Schnatter's attorneys are seeking to inspect Company documents because of the unexplained and heavy-handed way in which the Company has treated him since the publication of a story that falsely accused him of using a racial slur. The Company's refusal to provide the requested documents to Mr. Schnatter demonstrates that the Company, Board and the Special Committee, instead of standing behind its founder and Chairman, did just the opposite by failing to engage with the news media to explain what actually occurred.

Now they are doing the same thing again – rather than address the real issues like the health of the business, the Company is hiding documents that, we believe, will disclose the actual facts as to what is occurring here, including using Mr. Schnatter as a scapegoat to cover up their own shortcomings and failures.

When Mr. Schnatter asked the Company to assist in correcting the misreported stories by communicating the true facts, the Company's public relations department and other top executives told Mr. Schnatter to ignore the issue because it would eventually go away. This type of flawed public relations strategy is unfortunately par for the course for the Company, which has a history of sticking its head in the sand when dealing with comments that have been misconstrued and falsely reported. In addition to failing to defend him by explaining what he did and did not say, the Company and the Board took a series of panic-stricken steps to immediately distance themselves from Mr. Schnatter without conducting any investigation into what really occurred as their legal obligations require.

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