

As attorney for David Otunga, I would like to release the following updated statement:

Mr. Otunga has now had the opportunity to review the Petition for Order of Protection that Jennifer Hudson filed on November 16, 2017 and he wants to make it very clear that he denies each and every allegation contained in that petition. Mr. Otunga is now and has always been the primary caregiver of the parties' son. On November 15, 2017 Ms. Hudson thought it was appropriate to have their son at a recording studio until 12:30am on a school night. Mr. Otunga's only concern that evening was putting the child to bed so that he could be well rested for school. At no time did Mr. Otunga "physically push" Ms. Hudson as she has alleged. Everyone who knows Mr. Otunga in his personal life can attest to the fact that he is a highly educated, sophisticated, and non-violent man, and that his primary concern in life is caring for the parties' son. Ms. Hudson is much less available to care for the child as a result of her constant travelling, but Mr. Otunga has always notified Ms. Hudson of the child's activities and whereabouts. Mr. Otunga does not own a firearm, and the gun referenced in Ms. Hudson's petition was a prop that he used for an audition, just as he told her it was at the time she saw it in their house. It is unfortunate that Ms. Hudson has filed this petition in a calculated manner to not only have Mr. Otunga removed from the family home, but also in an effort to insert herself as the child's primary caregiver. Despite the fact that Mr. Otunga has been represented by counsel in the custody dispute for many weeks, Ms. Hudson and her attorney failed to give Mr. Otunga and his counsel notice of the filing of her petition, so that Mr. Otunga could be present in court. Mr. Otunga only learned of the Order of Protection when the local police removed him from his home in the presence of the child at the direction of Ms. Hudson or her attorney. While the next court date in this matter has been scheduled for December 7, 2017, Mr. Otunga is going to petition the court to have the hearing date advanced to November 21, 2017, so that he can spend Thanksgiving with his son.

---TRACY M. RIZZO