

My personal intention of responding to this matter is to have a voice in this story and support others across the nation who have been put in my position, being publicly criticized or legally punished by standing up for their beliefs. I do take responsibility for breaking the mask mandate that was effective at the time. Media and law enforcement portrays that I was arrested for other reasons, but majority would agree it was because I was not wearing a mask. After being arrested for not wearing a mask, I could clearly see that a divide was emerging across the country between mask-wearers and non mask-wearers. By not wearing my mask, I was publicly labeled a criminal.

In addition to now being labeled a criminal, University of Arkansas police took it a step further and fabricated a story to support their claims. To clarify, I did not 'flip off' a staff member at the entrance. This false claim was documented in the police report. I was not denied entrance to the stadium prior to encountering the police. Staff granted me access to the stadium just as they had three times previously.

Keep in mind, this encounter began by requiring a mask to be worn. During the encounter of being arrested, I originally had my mask on but it was forced down off of my face. After being arrested, police officers kept my mask under my chin and never placed it over my mouth or nose. If the true intentions are public health, officers would have ensured my mouth and nose were covered prior to escorting me through a crowd of spectators.

All charges have been dropped, for that I am thankful. I do continue to worry though. I worry for the rights of Arkansas citizens. I worry for the future of independent thinking and common sense. I worry about those who have been brave enough to stand up for themselves and have been labeled a criminal. This is happening across the country. Be brave, respectfully express your opinion. I do feel that individuals such as myself are the silent majority. We must get loud.

Thank you for listening,

Seth Pitts