

Extended Remarks of Paul Chesser  
Director, Corporate Integrity Project for National Legal and Policy Center  
Coca-Cola 2022 Shareholder Meeting – April 26, 2022

I am Paul Chesser, director of the Corporate Integrity Project for National Legal and Policy Center.

On March 31, 2021, Coca-Cola Chairman and CEO James Quincey caved to progressive political activists and said about Georgia's election integrity law, "I want to be crystal clear. The Coca-Cola Company does not support this legislation, as it makes it harder for people to vote, not easier."

If you took Mr. Quincey at face value, you might think he believes the assurance of one-voter-one-vote in elections – through validations such as voter ID and limiting unmonitored ballot boxes – are bad things.

Rather than manage his soft-drink company in a manner that respects and meets the needs of as many customers as possible, Mr. Quincey instead chose to insult millions of minority voters by implying he believes they are all too stupid to get an ID so they can vote. With the same statement he also insulted millions of Georgians who, unlike Mr. Quincey, clearly saw there were vote-counting discrepancies and ballot legality problems in the 2020 election that they don't want to happen again.

But as voter ID legislation moved through the Parliament the last few months in Mr. Quincey's home country, the United Kingdom, we have not heard a peep from him.

Why not? Why does Mr. Quincey apply more stringent voting standards against the United States, where he receives his sizable paychecks?

That's not the only example of Mr. Quincey's lack of awareness.

Last year it was discovered also, under Mr. Quincey's leadership, that Coca-Cola had imposed diversity training for its employees.

The sessions included a course called "Confronting Racism", which alleges that U.S. whites are socialized to believe they are "inherently superior" and suggests they "try to be less white" by being "less oppressive" and "break with white solidarity."

And during the height of the rioting across the nation during the summer of 2020, Mr. Quincey poured gasoline on the fire by embracing the violent, Marxist "Black Lives Matter" cause that destroyed many of our cities' downtowns, including Atlanta's, and amplified lies about alleged inherent racism among our nation's law enforcement.

Such posturing on the part of our corporate leaders has now contributed to the rampant crime problem we face in our urban cores, including Coca-Cola's home of downtown Atlanta.

Mr. Quincey's virtue-signaling has also addressed the topic of gender as well, with Coca-Cola boasting of its initiatives to help women entrepreneurs and highlighting its "Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy" that explicitly prohibits harassment, intimidation, retaliation, and threats on the basis of several factors, including gender.

Those policies ring hollow, however, as Mr. Quincey totally ignored our request for him to call a special meeting of the Board to remove director Bobby Kotick, whose 30-plus year management of Activision Blizzard has led to many credible charges of sexual harassment and assault at his company, under his watch. Characterized as a "frat boy culture" by the California Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing, Mr. Kotick's company lost several top executives, and hundreds of employees signed a petition calling for his ouster.

But Mr. Quincey, in the top two leadership roles for Coca-Cola, and its Lead Independent Director, Maria Elena Lagomasino, remained silent and kept Mr. Kotick on the board.

While Mr. Quincey has bashed Americans and their alleged default racism, he has led our company in solidarity and submission to Communist China, even sponsoring the Genocide Olympics.

Coca-Cola's involvement with China, however, goes beyond mere sports. Mr. Quincey followed the footsteps of his predecessor to aggressively expand its sales and distribution footprint in the communist nation. He and his predecessor signed over rights to the Chinese-communist state-owned COFCO Company for roughly half its bottling factories – at least one of which operates in the region of Xinjiang, where the oppressive government has forced millions of Muslim-minority Uyghurs into slave labor operations and concentration camps, with credible accusations of genocide coming from both the Trump and Biden administrations.

Meanwhile Coca-Cola has lobbied Congress against the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act.

This is who moralist James Quincey believes Coca-Cola should partner with – genocidal communists, while hypocritically bashing Americans and their freedoms back home in Atlanta. His leadership has earned the company the mocking nickname, "Woke-a-Cola."

If any corporate resolution to separate the roles of Chairman and CEO is justified, it's this one.