



## Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

### RESOLUTION 12112013\_3

- WHEREAS,** the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Membership consists of eleven federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota and two at-large members who are members of federally-recognized tribes, not based in Minnesota, but are citizens of Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS,** the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is the official liaison between state and local units of government in the delivery of services to the American Indians in the State of Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS,** the use of racist and derogatory images, attributed to indigenous people in professional sport franchises and educational institutions, not only detracts from the proud history, cultures and traditions of native peoples, but constitutes continuing harm to children and indigenous peoples generally; and
- WHEREAS,** the usage of sport mascots, logos and symbols, perpetuate negative stereotypes of America's First People and reduces proud cultures to symbols for fun and games; and
- WHEREAS,** when exposed to such images, the self-esteem and self-confidence of native youth is adversely impacted, and sense of identity potentially damaged; and
- WHEREAS,** names and images that present negative native stereotypes present inaccurate portrayals of native peoples and their respective contributions to society; and
- WHEREAS,** creating positive images and role models is essential in helping native youth to more fully and fairly establish themselves in today's society; and
- WHEREAS,** the term "Redskins" originates from a time when native people were actively hunted and killed for bounties, and their skins were used as proof that they had been killed; and
- WHEREAS,** "Redskins" is widely utilized as a term of disparagement and ridicule, and is so identified within major dictionaries; and

**WHEREAS,** the name "Redskins", adopted by the Washington D.C. football team, is a racial slur, and form of hate speech, usage of which constitutes discrimination damaging a protected class of citizens by denying respect, encouraging stereotypes, and inflicting harm upon indigenous peoples, wherever it might be utilized, including within government funded facilities, at the workplace, and at public gatherings; and

**WHEREAS,** Treaties between the Ojibwe, and Dakota Nations and the United States are based upon, and meant to incorporate, mutual respect; and

**WHEREAS,** the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minn.Stat. 363A.02 declares it to be the public policy of Minnesota to secure for all persons full and equal utilization of public accommodations without discrimination, together with full opportunity of employment without barriers occasioned by humiliation or discomfort; and

**WHEREAS,** the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, at Title II – 42 USC § 2000(a), provides similar protections designed to guarantee full and equal enjoyment of any place of public accommodation, and at Title VII provides protection against discriminatory employment environments and practices; and

**WHEREAS,** use of racist names constitutes an incitement to discrimination in violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article XX (2) to which the United States is a signatory; and

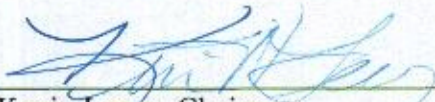
**WHEREAS,** use of derogatory names and symbols further constitutes violation of the rights to dignity and to be free from exploitation, as guaranteed within the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, Articles 8, 15 and 17, to which the United States is a signatory; and


**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED,** The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council hereby declares:

1. That race-based indigenous logos, mascots and names be eliminated from all national sports franchises, and non-Tribal educational institutions, and recreational clubs that engage in sports activities within the State of Minnesota.
2. That the Washington football franchise of the National Football League change the team's name to a name that does not degrade any race of people.

3. That imagery and names that are meant to portray native peoples not be displayed in connection with any non-Tribal sports activity in any stadium supported by public funds within the State of Minnesota.
4. That the name Redskins not be allowed to be displayed within any sign, scoreboard, or uniform, or spoken via public address system within any current or future professional football stadium within the State of Minnesota receiving public funding.
5. That "Redskins" and others racists names not be displayed within the planned Vikings football Stadium or presented via public address systems, and that indigenous peoples interested in employment, contracts and/or construction positions will not be made to feel uncomfortable by any of the stadium's permitted usages.
6. That the Minnesota Governor, State legislative leaders, Minnesota Congressional Delegation, and the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority, be advised of this Resolution, and requested to take action consistent therewith.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED:** We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 8 Yea, 0 Nay, and 0 Abstain at the quarterly board meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on December 11, 2013 at St. Paul, Minnesota.

  
Kevin Leecy, Chairman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

  
Curt Kalk, Secretary  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council