



North American Indian Association  
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To: Whom it May Concern

From: Board of Directors and Executive Director

Date: 01/24/2024

Re: Use of Stereotypical Native American Mascots

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The North American Indian Association of Detroit (NAIA) is one of the oldest Urban Indian Center's In the Country with a membership base of 300+ Native Americans. The Native American population alone in Wayne County Mi is over 30,000 from a diverse selection of Tribes. This connection to the community has provided us with the direction to release this letter opposing any and all use of Native American Symbols or Depictions as Mascots for any entity other than a Federally Recognized Tribe.

NAIA recognizes all the grassroots organizations collaborating to send a clear message that this practice is disrespectful to its core. If an image hurts or belittles one person or group, it has the ability to devastate thousands more and this needs to be prevented at all costs.

For those who are currently still using these types of Mascots do not look at this situation as a "Problem" look at it as a creative opportunity to be better, do better and set a new standard that reflects a community of RESPECT, HUMILITY, BRAVERY, HONESTY, WISDOM, TRUTH and LOVE.

Respectfully,

Brian Moore  
Executive Director

Cc: Board of Directors  
Cc: Community at Large