



Pokégnek Bodéwadmik • Pokagon Band of Potawatomi  
Tribal Council

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P.O. Box 180 • 58620 Sink Road • Dowagiac, MI 49047 • [www.PokagonBand-nsn.gov](http://www.PokagonBand-nsn.gov)  
(269) 782-6323 • (888) 376-9988 toll free • (269) 782-9625 fax

## POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI INDIANS

### TRIBAL COUNCIL

#### RESOLUTION No. 16-08-22-01

**WHEREAS:** The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana ("Pokagon Band") is a sovereign, federally-recognized Indian tribe, as reaffirmed under P.L. 103-323, enacted September 21, 1994; and

**WHEREAS:** The Pokagon Band is organized under a constitution, which was adopted on November 1, 2005 and became effective on December 16, 2005 ("Constitution"); and

**WHEREAS:** In accordance with P.L. 103-323 and pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution, the Tribal Council is the governing body of the Pokagon Band; and

**WHEREAS:** The Tribal Council is vested with the sovereign powers of the Pokagon Band not inconsistent with any provisions of the Constitution, including without limitation those enumerated powers set forth in Article IX, Section 2, of the Constitution; and

**WHEREAS:** For hundreds of years, Native Americans have been subject to efforts designed to destroy and eliminate them and their culture; and

**WHEREAS:** The term "Redskins" derives from a practice that encouraged genocide against Native Americans; and

**WHEREAS:** The term "Redskins" is offensive, derogatory, and demeaning; and

**WHEREAS:** The use of the term "Redskins" perpetuates harmful stereotypes of Native Americans; and

**WHEREAS:** Studies have demonstrated that the use of an offensive, derogatory, and demeaning term such as “Redskins” as a component of a mascot, name, or symbol by schools has a detrimental effect, including negative psychological consequences, on the Native American students of such schools; and

**WHEREAS:** The use of the term “Redskins” as a component of a mascot, name, or symbol in schools fosters a hostile learning environment for Native American students; and

**WHEREAS:** Schools should provide all students, including Native Americans, a safe, supportive, and respectful educational environment; and

**WHEREAS:** In recognition of the above, many schools are removing the term “Redskins” from any mascot, name, or symbol; and

**WHEREAS:** The Pokagon Band has previously objected to the use of the term “Redskins” and supported efforts to eliminate its use, including through Tribal Council Resolution 13-09-16-04.

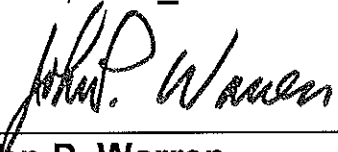
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Tribal Council of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians recognizes that the use of the term “Redskins” as any component of a mascot, name, or symbol by any school has a detrimental effect on the Native American students of such school.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in order to help ensure an educational environment that is safe, supportive, and respectful for all students, including Native Americans, the Tribal Council of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians opposes the use of the term “Redskins” as any component of a mascot, name, or symbol by any school.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Tribal Council of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians encourages all schools to eliminate the use of the term “Redskins” as any component of their mascot, name, or symbol.

## CERTIFICATION

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and voted upon with a quorum present at a duly convened Special meeting of the Tribal Council held on the 22nd day of August, 2016 by a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 absent, and 0 abstaining.

  
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**John P. Warren**  
**Tribal Council Chairman**

  
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**Mark H. Parrish**  
**Tribal Council Secretary**