

RESOLUTION
of the
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

By Gordon, Cano, Andrew Johnson and Yang

Calling on the National Football League and Washington, D.C. Team Owners to Change the Racist Name of the Washington, D.C. Football Franchise.

Whereas, the Washington “Redskins” are due to play the Minnesota Vikings in Minneapolis on November 2, 2014; and

Whereas, “redskin” is a term of racist derision for indigenous peoples; and

Whereas, protests are planned to condemn the racism inherent in the “Redskins” name; and

Whereas, our nation has a terrible, tragic history of racism, in which Minnesota and Washington, D.C. share; and

Whereas, just over one hundred and fifty years ago, Minnesota was the site of the largest mass execution of indigenous people in the history of the United States, when on December 26th, 1862, thirty-eight Dakota men were hanged in Mankato, Minnesota; and

Whereas, the Washington “Redskins” have a documented history of racism, refusing to racially integrate until U.S. Interior Secretary Stewart Udall and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy threatened to revoke the team’s lease on their then-stadium in 1962; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2012, the Minneapolis City Council adopted a resolution declaring that the City of Minneapolis will work to promote the well-being and growth of the American Indian community, including Dakota People; and

Whereas, on December 11, 2013 the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council adopted a resolution declaring that imagery and names that are meant to portray native peoples not be displayed with any non-Tribal activity in any stadium supported by public funds in Minnesota and that the name “Redskins” should not be allowed to be displayed or spoken within any current or future professional football stadium within the State of Minnesota; and

Whereas, on April 25, 2014, the Minneapolis City Council adopted a resolution declaring Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the City of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, on August 1, 2014, the University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler wrote that he was working with the Vikings to eliminate the use of “Redskins” in publicity materials and public address announcements when the team plays at the University’s TCF Stadium; and

Whereas, the Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Emergency Management Committee has recommended directing City staff to research possible legal action that the City of Minneapolis can take to prevent the use of this derogatory team name in the City of Minneapolis;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City of Minneapolis condemns the racist, offensive name of the Washington, D.C. football franchise, urges that team’s owner to change its name, and calls on the National Football League to compel this name change.