

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST RACISM IN SPORTS AND MEDIA

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RACISM IN SPORTS AND MEDIA**

February 12, 2018

Robert D. Manfred Jr., Commissioner
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10167

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

The National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media (NCARSM) exists to fight powerful individuals, institutions, and governmental influences that propagate racism in sports and media. The NCARSM board takes a long term view of the struggle against hatred and discrimination. We are in a fight against all cases of racism, and against long ingrained willful and self serving ignorance. We strive towards the elimination of the misrepresentations, abuses and the racist treatment of all people in sports and media.

We are writing to you to thank you and the Cleveland baseball team ownership for finally “retiring” the ‘Chief Wahoo’ logo. However, we expect much more. By stating that "Major League Baseball is committed to building a culture of diversity and inclusion throughout the game," and that “the logo is no longer appropriate for on-field use in Major League Baseball.” You have demonstrated that you understand the institutional and inherited racism of indigenous mascots. We call on you to remove the Cleveland Indians and Atlanta Braves team names.

In 2005, the National Collegiate Athletic Association barred teams having “hostile or abusive” names, mascots, or images from hosting tournaments and participating in postseason games in conformity with the NCAA’s policy of maintaining an "atmosphere of respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person." We assume that Major League Baseball, as you have stated, wants to create the same atmosphere at all games and this cannot happen while Cleveland and Atlanta keep their racist names.

We understand the inherited tradition of these names and mascots and the strong emotions they conjure. We believe that institutional racism is hard to change and we are asking you to continue on that journey now. No indigenous sports mascot or name manufactured by and for non-indigenous people honors us, is welcomed by us, is celebrated without denigration, or is an accurate representation of our race, our spirituality and our heritage.

Moreover, there is overwhelming evidence from impartial academic research that unwelcome indigenous mascots, stereotypes, caricatures, and associated minstrel shows damage indigenous children, damage indigenous futures, and damage the perception of all protected classes.

We know any decision to change your inherited mascots and names will be met with opposition from certain communities. Like the thousands of secondary school districts before you, the hundreds of colleges and universities, and the handful of professional teams we hope you will share their successful experiences and realize that the words and images you appropriated from Indigenous Peoples are entirely unnecessary.

Sincerely,



David Glass - Henry Boucha - Clyde H. Bellecourt
President / Vice President / Co-founder
National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media