



Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts: Joel Barkin
Oneida Nation V.P. for Communications
(315) 361-8173
jbarkin@oneida-nation.org

National Congress of American Indians and the Oneida Indian Nation Statement on Resignation of Washington NFL Team Executive Hired to Defend the R-Word Racial Epithet

ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS (NY) (July 8, 2014) The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Oneida Indian Nation, which lead the national [Change the Mascot](#) campaign, responded today to reports that the blogger hired just two weeks ago to defend the Washington NFL team's use of a racial slur is resigning.

NCAI Executive Director Jackie Pata and Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter said in response to this latest development:

“The growing opposition to the team's name is about far more than any one person—it is a civil rights and human rights issue and it is time for the team and the NFL to stand on the right side of history and change the mascot.

“In trying to continue profiting off of a racial slur, Washington team officials have attempted to assemble a political attack machine, but that has only underscored their insensitivity. Dan Snyder selected a person who financially harmed Native Americans to run a foundation to defend his team’s name. Then Snyder hired a blogger to defend the name, even though that person previously publicly insulted Native Americans and also admitted the team's name is a racial slur. The fundamental lesson in each of those humiliating episodes should be obvious: there is simply no way to justify promoting, marketing and profiting off of a dictionary-defined racial slur.

“The only tenable solution for the team is to recognize that the R-word racial epithet is deeply offensive to Native Americans, to quit pretending that this word somehow honors them, and to stop using this slur. If Dan Snyder wants to stop embarrassing himself, his team, its fan base and the NFL, then he should approach the issue of the name from an honest and genuine standpoint.”

###

Follow us on Twitter:
[@ChangeDCMascot](#)
[@OneidaNatnNews](#)