



Change the Mascot!

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Change the Mascot Praises Respected NFL Official Mike Carey for Stance Against Washington NFL Team's R-Word Name

ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS (Aug. 20, 2014) It was revealed today that Mike Carey, highly-respected NFL referee and the first African American referee to work a Super Bowl, had intentionally not worked a Washington team game in the past eight years. According to a piece in The Washington Post, Carey could not bring himself to officiate Washington games because “his desire for a mutually respectful society was so jeopardized by the team name” and his employers quietly accepted his request.

Change the Mascot campaign leaders, NCAI Executive Director Jackie Pata and Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter, issued the following statement in response:

“We applaud Mike Carey for taking a potentially career-limiting move years ago to stand against the R-word, which he clearly recognized as an unacceptable and degrading epithet. Carey’s superiors within the league also displayed sensitivity to the issue by acknowledging and obliging his requests not to work Washington games and avoid using the R-word.”

“Mr. Carey's sentiments, and the sentiments periodically expressed by some current and former players, suggest that there are many others in the league who think it is unacceptable for Washington team to continue promoting this racial slur. Mr. Carey's decision to go public about

his stand should send a message to others in the league that they do not have to aid and abet Dan Snyder's efforts to continue slurring Native Americans. They can instead speak out and stand on the right side of history. When the next generation looks back on this time, they will remember who helped promote and market this slur and who took a principled stand against this kind of for-profit bigotry.”

The full Washington Post article published on this story today can be found at:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/redskins/mike-carey-longtime-nfl-referee-avoided-washingtons-games-because-of-the-name/2014/08/20/d6dae602-27b2-11e4-86ca-6f03cbd15c1a_story.html

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