

RESOLUTION
of the
MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Opposition to the Use of Offensive Native American Team Names and Logos Within the City of
Minneapolis

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is the home to one of the most significant proportions of urban American Indian populations in the United States.

Whereas, the American Psychological Association called for the immediate retirement of all American Indian mascots, symbols, images and personalities by schools, colleges, universities, athletic teams and organizations, because such inaccurate use of this imagery “undermines the ability of American Indian Nations to portray accurate and respectful images of their culture, spirituality, and tradition,” and “is a form of discrimination against Indigenous Nations that can lead to negative relations between groups.”

Whereas, in 1991 hundreds gathered at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome to protest the use of the racist name and imagery of the Major League Baseball Team from Atlanta, Georgia.

Whereas, on November 8, 2013, hundreds, including members of Minnesota’s Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Minnesota, and officials from the City of Minneapolis, gathered at the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome to protest the use of the racist name and imagery of the National Football League team from Washington, D.C.

Whereas, on November 2, 2014, a National Football League game will be played at the University of Minnesota TCF Bank Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota between the Minnesota Vikings and the football team from Washington, D.C.

Whereas, short-term association with a team name or logo is no excuse for ignoring painful, centuries old history of the mistreatment of this Country’s indigenous people.

Whereas, the United States Commission on Civil Rights condemns the use of Native American team names and images of sports teams.

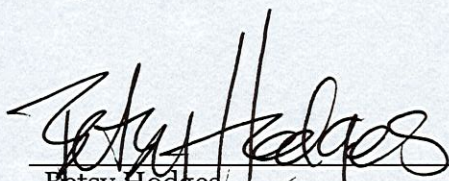
Whereas, the National Congress of American Indians strongly opposes the use of derogatory and disparaging Native American sports names and mascots.

Whereas, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office cancelled six federal registrations for trademarks that include the term “Redskins.”


Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved,

The Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights and the Mayor of the City of Minneapolis hereby states publicly its opposition to the use of offensive Native American team names and logos within the City of Minneapolis.

Passed October 27, 2014



Betsy Hodges
Mayor, City of Minneapolis



Michael Harralson
Chair, Commission on Civil Rights

