



Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Change the Mascot Campaign Applauds Removal of Former Racist NFL Team Owner's Monument; Urges NFL to Change R-Word Racist Name

Oneida Nation Homelands – June 19, 2020 – Following the removal of a George Preston Marshall memorial statue at RFK Stadium – the nationwide grassroots organization [Change the Mascot](#) is calling on Washington NFL team owner Dan Snyder to acknowledge the offensive origin of his team's name and the needless pain it has caused Native Americans for decades.

Marshall is best known for his past ownership of the NFL team currently based in Washington that uses the R-word racist slur against Native Americans as its mascot and team name. Change the Mascot is calling on Dan Snyder to change its name and mascot at this unique time when so many voices in America are calling for action.

“Change the Mascot praises D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser for acknowledging our calls for change and the long overdue removal of the statue of the racist George Preston Marshall from RFK Stadium,” said Ray Halbritter, head of Change the Mascot. “Change the Mascot has been a leading voice in calling for the removal of this statue as well as the dedicated George Preston Marshall section within the team's home stadium that honors an unrepentant segregationist.”

“While this is an important step, the central issue that remains blindingly obvious is the Washington NFL team’s continued use of an offensive and explicit racial slur that is offensive to people of color,” said Halbritter.

“Team owner Dan Snyder has now been given an opportunity to create a different legacy for himself. For as long as he insists on slurring Native Americans with his team’s racist mascot, it will lead to more damaging impact on Native American communities and he will become more synonymous with infamous segregationist George Preston Marshall,” Halbritter added.

About Change the Mascot:

Change the Mascot is a grassroots campaign that works to educate the public about the damaging effects on Native Americans arising from the continued use of the R-word. This civil and human rights movement has helped reshape the debate surrounding the Washington team’s name and brought the issue to the forefront of social consciousness. Since its launch, Change the Mascot has garnered support from a diverse coalition of prominent advocates including elected officials from both parties, Native American tribes, sports icons, leading journalists and news publications, civil and human rights organizations and religious leaders.

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