



Paul Jenkins <ljenkins@gfsd.org>

From the National Congress of American Indians - RE: Glens Falls City Schools mascot

Ian Record <irecord@ncai.org>

Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 9:44 AM

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Cc: Coby Klar <ckar@ncai.org>, Ashley Hamilton <ahamilton@ncai.org>

[Please share this email with all of those who are addressed below]

Dear Principal Silvernell, Superintendent Jenkins, and the Glens Falls City School District Board of Education:

On behalf of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), I am writing in response to a request for assistance that we received from a member of the Glens Falls City Schools community. This individual informed us that the community is currently engaged <<https://www.yourerie.com/news/local-news/erie-school-board-discusses-the-idea-of-the-east-middle-school-mascot-being-changed/>> in a conversation about whether to retire the schools' "Indians" name and mascot, and asked if NCAI would provide the schools and school board with some general information about the facts concerning the harms caused by the continued use of Native "themed" mascots in sports and popular culture. That is the purpose of this email.

NCAI is the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization representing tribal nations and peoples. It has been leading Indian Country's consensus-driven movement to eradicate offensive Native "themed" mascots from sports and popular culture for the past fifty years. As a resolution passed by NCAI's membership in 2005 explains, "the use of 'Native American' sports mascots, logos, or symbols perpetuates stereotypes of American Indians that are very harmful. The 'warrior savage' myth has plagued this country's relationships with the Indian people, as it reinforces the racist view that Indians are uncivilized and uneducated and it has been used to justify policies of forced assimilation and destruction of Indian culture."

Below are linked resources that provide additional details about NCAI and tribal nations' broad and longstanding opposition to the use of these mascots, as well as the harms that they cause:

NCAI Commends Decision by MLB's Cleveland Franchise to Change Its "Indians" Name <<https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2020/12/14/ncai-commends-decision-by-major-league-baseball-s-cleveland-franchise-to-change-its-indians-name>>

NCAI's "Ending the Legacy of Racism" Report <http://www.ncai.org/attachments/PolicyPaper_mijApMoUWDbjqFtjAYzQWlqLdrwZvsYfakBwTHpMATcOroYolpN_NCAI_Harmful_Mascots_Report_Ending_the_Legacy_of_Racism_10_2013.pdf>

NCAI Native "Themed" School Mascot National Tracking Database: The Current Numbers <<http://bit.ly/schoolmascotdatabase>>

Retiring "Indian" School Mascots: Informing, Tracking, and Fueling a Growing Movement (video) <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LfF5xysOOA&t=1s>>

NCAI: Learn About Tribal Nations, Citizenship, History, and Contemporary Issues <http://www.ncai.org/initiatives/partnerships-initiatives/Learn_About_Tribal_Nations_FINAL.pdf>

NCAI Statement on Washington Football Team's Retirement of Racist Mascot <<http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2020/07/13/ncai-statement-on-the-washington-football-team-s-retirement-of-racist-mascot>>

Washington Post: NCAI President Op-ed: Ridding Football of Racial Slurs <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/heres-something-id-be-thankful-for-ridding-football-of-racial-slurs/2018/11/21/455be8da-edc3-11e8-8679-934a2b33be52_story.html>

NCAI Applauds Decision by Little League International to Ban Racially Offensive Team Names and Mascots<<http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2019/01/11/ncai-applauds-decision-by-little-league-international-to-ban-racially-offensive-team-names-and-mascots>>

Cleveland Indians manager says it's time to change the team name<<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/05/us/cleveland-indians-mascot-trnd/index.html>>

National Education Association Resolution: Supporting Removal of Native Themed Mascots<<https://ra.nea.org/business-item/2018-nbi-120/>>

National Indian Education Association Resolution: Elimination of Race-Based Indian Logos, Mascots, and Names<<https://www.niea.org/niea-blog-2009/elimination-of-race-based-indian-logos-mascots-andnames>>

American Psychological Association Resolution - Retiring American Indian Mascots<<https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>>

Study finds only harmful effects from Native themed mascots<<https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/study-finds-only-harmful-effects-from-native-themed-mascots-Gr8ez-HtvkeB-Q5SPNhmhw>>

Leading National Civil Rights and Racial Justice Organizations Announce Joint Opposition to Washington NFL Team Locating New Stadium in District of Columbia<<http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2018/08/24/leading-national-civil-rights-and-racial-justice-organizations-announce-joint-opposition-to-washington-nfl-team-locating-new-stadium-in-district-of-columbia>>

CNN: Maine to become first state to ban Native American mascots in public schools<<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/17/us/maine-bans-native-american-mascots/index.html>>

NCAI: Ending the Era of Harmful "Indian" Mascots<<http://www.ncai.org/proudtobe>>

NCAI 2013 Resolution: Commending Efforts to Eliminate Racist Stereotypes in Sports and Calling on the U.S. President and Congress to Combat These Continuing Affronts to Native Peoples<http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_OYdGFAZFMqQHjvyNLplcWKmsrTcaUnlcqeMnyetmhetMvcyVZn_TUL-13-050%20Final.pdf>

NCAI 2005 Resolution: Support for NCAA Ban on "Indian" Mascots<http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_dZoHILXNEzXOuYlebzAihFwqFzfNnTHDGJVwjaujNvnsFtxUVd_TUL-05-087.pdf>

Op-ed: The destructive dynamic of dehumanizing Native Americans<<https://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/civil-rights/296846-the-destructive-dynamic-of-dehumanizing-native-americans>>

Why Educators Can't Ignore Indian Mascots<<http://aistm.org/cornel.why.educators.htm>>

Please let me know if you have any questions or require additional information as you deliberate this critical issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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