



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

October 14, 2013

RE: Resolution Supporting Spirit of Proposed Council Resolution Calling on Washington Redskins to Change Their Name

Dear Mayor Gray and Council Members,

At its regular meeting on October 9, 2013, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) discussed the recent efforts by the D.C. Council, the President, and others to apply pressure to the Washington Redskins to change the team name. With 7 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-1):

Whereas: ANC 2B recognizes the importance of history and tradition in Washington, D.C. but also realizes that some traditions must evolve with our evolving societal consciousness;

Whereas: The Washington Redskins football team is strongly identified with the District of Columbia;

Whereas: ANC 2B encourages and welcomes the increasing recognition by society that dividing people by skin color is wrong and has been the root cause of many social ills;

Whereas: The name “Washington Redskins” is rooted in a focus on skin color and racial divisions;

Whereas: The name “Washington Redskins” is insensitive to the history of subjugation and dehumanization of Native peoples in the Americas;

Whereas: Use of the term “Redskins” has twice been declared derogatory by the US Patent and Trademark Office;

Whereas: This past weekend, President Barack Obama said the following: “I don’t think there are any Redskins fans that mean offense. I’ve got to say that if I were the owner of the team and I knew that there was a name of my team — even if it had a storied history — that was offending a sizeable group of people, I’d think about changing it. But I don’t want to detract from the wonderful Redskins fans that are here. They love their team, and rightly so — even though they’ve

been having a pretty tough time this year. But I think — all these mascots and team names related to Native Americans, Native Americans feel pretty strongly about it. And I don't know whether our attachment to a particular name should override the real, legitimate concerns that people have about these things.

Whereas: ANC 2B, like President Obama, does not wish to detract from the team's fans, who do not mean to cause any offense or harm in supporting the team or buying branded paraphernalia;

Whereas: A majority of the members of the D.C. Council have sponsored a resolution expressing the sense of the Council that "the Local Professional Football Club immediately change its designation so as to avoid using the derogatory identification or nickname of 'Washington Redskins.'"

Therefore be it resolved: that ANC 2B strongly supports the spirit of the Council resolution and enthusiastically joins the increasing numbers of people and institutions of all backgrounds calling for the team to change its name within a reasonable period of time.

Commissioners Kishan Putta (kishan.putta@dupontcircleanc.net), Will Stephens (will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net), and Mike Feldstein (mike.feldstein@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Will Stephens
Chairman

cc: Gottlieb Simo