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Dupont Circle ANC Votes to Call On Washington Redskins to Change Their Name, Supports Spirit of Proposed DC Council Resolution

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Last Night, October 9, the Dupont Circle ANC (2B) voted to approve Commissioner Kishan Putta's resolution to support the spirit of the District of Columbia Council resolution proposed by Councilmember David Grosso and sponsored by a majority of the Council. We encourage other ANCs and Washington-Area institutions to also call on the team to change its name.

Dupont Circle ANC Resolution Calling on Washington Redskins to Change Their Name, Supporting Spirit of Proposed DC Council Resolution

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 U.S. 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.