

Councilmember David Grosso

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Councilmember David Grosso introduced the following resolution,
which was referred to the
Committee on _____.

To declare the sense of the Council of the District of Columbia that the
local Professional
Football Club immediately change its designation so as to avoid using
the derogatory
identification or nickname of “Washington Redskins.”

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA, That this resolution be cited as the “Sense of the Council
to Rename the Washington Football Club Resolution of 2013”.

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) District residents and their elected representatives
should not tolerate commercial or other use of derogatory terminology
relating to any people’s racial identity, or which dishonors any person’s
race, or which dishonors the name Washington.

(2) The name “Washington Redskins” was adopted and endorsed by the Washington Football Club’s successive owners notwithstanding it being derogatory, particularly as used in the District, with the foreseeable effect of insulting and debasing people of American Indian descent, as well as the Nation’s Capitol, this City of Washington, D.C.

(3) Since 1791, the beginning of our Republic, by passage of the Residence Act, the name Washington has served to honor the first President of the United States.

(4) Washington’s name has been dishonored by association with the word “Redskins,” which has twice been declared derogatory by the Office of Trademark and Copyrights, and therefore unworthy of U.S. Trademark status and protection.

(5) Being aware of national standards, colleges and universities have been sanitizing First Nation names and mascots, and high schools are abandoning the derogatory name, *e.g.*, “Rickards Redskins” changed to “Rickards Raiders” and “Huntley Redskins” changed to “Huntley Red Raiders,” with Cooperstown’s high school abandoning the name.

(6) The Council is empowered to educate, inform, and counsel team owner Dan Snyder, National Football League Commissioner Roger Goodell, the National Football League Partnership and its Partners, of their unacknowledged duty to accept national standards and change the name both for the sake of decency, and to rectify this ongoing insult to America's First Nations, to the District, and to the memory of President Washington.

Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that:

(1) Dan Snyder, as principal owner of the Washington Football Club, Roger Goodell, as Commissioner of the National Football League, the National Football League and its Partners should change the name of the Washington Foot Club to a name that is not derogatory, demeaning, or dishonoring of America's First Nations, and of Washington, D.C. For example, in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen, the "Washington Redtails."

(2) Because it is well known in America and in Nations afar that American Indians have experienced utmost suffering and disrespect over many years, and that a change of name by Dan Snyder as Owner, Roger Goodell as Commissioner, and the National Football League as a

Partnership is essential to return to the American Indian Community a modicum of decency and respect that they and the Council demand, and to which each and every Native American and resident of Washington, D.C., are entitled.

Sec. 4. Transmittal.

The Secretary shall transmit a copy of this Resolution, upon its adoption, to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the D.C. Delegate in the House of Representative, D.C.'s Shadow Senator, Owner Dan Snyder, Commissioner Roger Goodell, and to each Partner of the National Football League.

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This resolution shall take effect upon the first day of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

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