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REBRAND RACIST MASCOTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, September 21, 2023

MEDIA ADVISORY

Rebrand Racist Mascots, at September 21 Rally, to Protest Atlanta Braves' Use of Racist Name and Imagery

The Atlanta Braves, at their September 21 at Nationals Park, will be greeted by DC-area activists protesting the team's continued racist appropriation of Native American culture for its name and imagery, even after other professional sports teams discontinued the practice.

Participants at the rally, which will include members of Rebrand Racist Mascots (RRM) and Native American activists, also will thank Washington Commanders owner Josh Harris, who is throwing out the first ball at the game, for restating his team's commitment not to revert to use of a racist name.

"We're showing up at Nats Park to chase the tomahawk chop out of DC," said RRM co-founder Josh Silver. "We thank Josh Harris and the Commanders for swearing off his team's old racist name and urge him not to adopt any Native American names or imagery as mascots in the future."

"The newly rebranded Cleveland Guardians baseball team is an example of what should be done in Atlanta," said RRM co-founder Ian Washburn. "Tomahawk chops, war chants, and anti-Native logos belong in the dustbin of history. We hope to encourage MLB to evolve the game."

Rebrand Racist Mascots is a grassroots advocacy group that continues the work of Rebrand Washington Football (RWF), founded in 2015 to pressure the Washington football team to change its former racist name. A five-year campaign by RWF of petition-gathering, rallies and other activities, as well as pressure from Native American organizations, resulted in the team agreeing in 2020 to change its name. RRM is now fighting to end the use of native mascots by other sports teams.

WHO: Rebrand Racists Mascots and allies

WHAT: Demonstration before Washington Nationals/Atlanta game

WHEN: Thursday, September 21
5:30-7:00 pm

WHERE: Nationals Park
Outside Centerfield Gate

Petition

Change name of Atlanta baseball team & drop the chop

<https://www.change.org/p/change-name-of-atlanta-baseball-team-drop-the-chop>

The Atlanta baseball team must change its name, mascot, and drop the Chop.

Native American mascots, fake dances and rituals are demeaning and debase the culture and heritage of Native Americans. Psychological research has demonstrated the harm of Native American mascots on both [Native Americans](#) and [non-Native Americans](#). The [American Psychological Association](#) has called for the immediate retirement of Native American mascots.

We must continue the momentum established by the recent changing of the names of the Washington Football Team and the Cleveland baseball team. The Atlanta baseball team must change its name and be on the right side of history. Racism has no place in sports.