



Dear County Executive Elrich:

On behalf of Rebrand Washington Football (RWF) and as a constituent of yours, I write to ask you to consider a resolution urging Mr. Daniel Snyder to change the name of the professional Washington football team. With a new county council, you have an opportunity to reaffirm the best of the progressive values of Montgomery County. These include inclusiveness and respect for diversity.

RWF is a grassroots advocacy organization of fans asking Mr. Snyder to change the team's name. In the last few years, we have gathered 7,100 petition signatures, which we deliver to team officials each December. You can view our most recent petition delivery and news conference on our website of <http://www.rebrandwf.org>.

The harms of stereotypical mascots have been well documented. In 2005, the American Psychological Association (APA) passed a resolution calling for the immediate retirement of Native American mascots in schools and athletics. The APA determined that such mascots were detrimental to the learning environment of both non-Native and Native youth. The APA concluded that "the continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities is disrespectful of the spiritual beliefs and values of American Indian nations. The continued use of American Indian mascots, symbols, images, and personalities is an offensive and intolerable practice to American Indian Nations that must be eradicated."

We ask that Montgomery County formerly associate itself with the hundreds of institutions and localities that have taken action against racially stereotypical names and mascots. A recent RWF report, "[Will the Washington Football Team be the Last to Shed a Racist Name?](#)" documents that 2,000 high schools across the country (nearly two thirds of the high schools with Native American themes) have changed their names and mascots. Also, over the past 25 years, 28 high schools have changed their "R-skins" name. Likewise, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) passed a resolution in 2005 prohibiting any college team from "displaying hostile and abusive racial/ethnic/national origin mascots, nicknames or imagery at any of the 88 NCAA championships." In response, several colleges have changed their names and mascots.

States have passed and considered legislation requiring or encouraging schools to eliminate racial stereotypes as mascots. The list of states eradicating or restricting these themes include Oregon, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

In our region, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments passed a resolution in 2002 declaring that the term "'R-dskins' is viewed by many sensitive and progressive-minded individuals as a demeaning and dehumanizing racist insult that embodies a history of degradation and slaughter." This was followed up by a resolution passed in [2013 by the District of Columbia Council](#) and one passed in [2015 by the Arlington County Board](#) asking Mr. Snyder to change the name of the team.



RWF is asking you now to strengthen the actions of the Council of Governments, Arlington County, and the District of Columbia by passing your own resolution urging a name change. Former County Executive Isiah Leggett declared that Montgomery County would not use the name of the team in official county communications. This was a welcome step which we hope is reiterated by the incoming County Executive and Council. However, we ask you to take one more step and pass a resolution making the County's views clear on this issue.

Lastly, we ask you to watch for efforts by the team to relocate the stadium. RWF opposes any public sector subsidies or legal changes facilitating a team relocation while the current team name remains. The team tried to work with members of Congress to change federal law to ease a possible relocation back to the old RFK site. RWF is pleased that this latest gambit has apparently failed and we urge you to oppose similar moves in any of the jurisdictions until Mr. Snyder has changed the name. The team must not profit from a relocation until it eliminates vestiges of a racist past.

We look forward to your reply and working with you on this important issue. You can reach us on 240-605-3084 or on [rebrandwf@gmail.com](mailto:rebrandwf@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

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