



The North American Indian Center of Boston

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
November 4, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Statement by the North American Indian Center of Boston on the upcoming New England – Washington game on Sunday November 8, 2015.

Boston, MA – As the New England Patriots are getting ready to play a team with a racially offensive name, we as Native Americans in the Boston area want to make clear our views on why this name is so disrespectful and so contrary to American values.

We of the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) extend our best wishes to the New England Patriots as they take on the Washington team this Sunday. We are disappointed that the ownership of the Washington team is unable to see that their team name is an insulting racial slur. To all of our citizens who plan to protest against the Washington team this Sunday in Foxboro, we urge you to do so peacefully, with the dignity that befits our Indigenous People. To our fellow New Englanders, we hope that our official policy on mascots, appended below, will help you to understand why we want so much to see the name of the Washington team changed. To our New England Patriots, we know that you make your best effort to win every game, but we hope that you understand why a victory this Sunday would be especially sweet for us.

We hope that Massachusetts schools will take this opportunity to revisit their mascots and logos and make certain that they do not promote racial stereotyping and do promote inclusiveness.

"The North American Indian Center of Boston condemns the use of disrespectful mascots and images throughout American society, as these images do not reflect American values of inclusion and justice for all. In particular we are committed to instilling in our children a strong sense of self-esteem and of pride in our Native heritage and culture. Caricature mascots and images of Native People only serve to undermine this important goal. We especially expect the schools to promote respect for all individuals and to serve as our allies in the cultivation of positive self-images in our children. Anything less is misuse of the public schools and the tax dollars that support them. All teams and institutions that use caricature mascots of Indian People are promoting racial stereotyping and impeding progress toward equality. We hope that all Native institutions and all of our fellow citizens will stand with us in our efforts to stop the use of racist, insulting images of Indian People."

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This statement was approved by unanimous vote of the NAICOB Board of Directors on November 4, 2015.

About NAICOB:

Originally established in 1969 as the Boston Indian Council, the North American Indian Center of Boston was later organized as a non-profit organization in 1991. The mission of the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) is to promote greater self-determination, socio-economic self-sufficiency, spiritual enhancement, intercultural understanding, and other forms of empowerment for the Native American community.

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