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Official Statement from the Myaamia Center regarding the Redskins Mascot.

The Myaamia Center supports the decision that Miami University made during the school year 1996-97 to terminate its Redskins mascot. The Myaamia Center staff believes that Miami University leadership acted appropriately by retiring the Redskins mascot after the Miami Tribe sent a resolution in 1996 requesting the name be changed.

In addition, extensive research demonstrates that race-based mascots promote and encourage harmful stereotypes.¹ For this reason, the National Congress of the American Indian, a collective body that speaks on issues concerning the 573 federally recognized tribes, passed a resolution in support of changing race-based mascots.² Resolutions in support of changing race-based mascots have been passed by the American Psychological Association and the American Indian Educational Association as well.³

In reflection, we now realize the presence and promotion of a Redskins mascot hindered the ability of Miami University to create a climate of understanding and respect towards members of our tribal community. The presence of the Myaamia Center on Miami University's campus and its work in language and cultural revitalization is a clear demonstration of the changes in attitude towards the Miami Tribe, which followed the mascot change. This shift has led to purposeful exchanges between the Tribe and University and been critical to the development of a climate of understanding that continues to produce meaningful work that positively influences the lives of tribal members and students who attend Miami University.

It is the hope of the Myaamia Center that the remnants of the Redskin mascot will one day survive only in the archives of Miami University's museums and libraries as an educational tool for future generations.

Daryl Baldwin
Director, Myaamia Center
May 1, 2018

¹ Stephanie A. Fryberg, *Free to be me? The Impact of Using American Indians as Mascots*. Invited Address at the 16th Annual Convention of American Indian Psychologists and Psychology Graduate Students, Utah State University, Logan, Utah (June, 2003).

² National Congress of the American Indian, *Resolution #TUL-05-087: Support for NCAA Ban on "Indian" Mascots*, 62nd Annual Convention, November 4, 2005.

³ American Psychological Association's Council of Representatives, *APA Resolution Recommending the Immediate Retirement of American Indian Mascots, Symbols, Images, and Personalities by Schools, Colleges, Universities, Athletic Teams, and Organizations*, September 2005. National Indian Education Association, *Resolution # 09-05: Elimination of Race-Based Indian Logos, Mascots, and Names*, October 25, 2009.