

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Governor Brown enacted the California Racial Mascots Act, which prohibited all public schools from using the term "Redskins" for school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames; and

WHEREAS, despite the passing of the California Racial Mascots Act, more than 100 schools in California continue to use other Native American names or terms as their school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname; and

WHEREAS, indigenous people have advocated against the use of Native American terms as athletic team names, trademarks, and branding, as well as stereotypical product imagery; and

WHEREAS, the use of Native mascots dehumanizes indigenous people by employing disparaging stereotypes of Native Americans that cause real harm and is antithetical to the California school mission of providing an equal education to all; and

WHEREAS, the United States Commission on Civil Rights, among other organizations, has concluded that the use of Native American images and names in school sports is a barrier to equality and understanding, and all residents of the U.S. would benefit from the discontinuance of their use; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the State Assembly is Assembly Bill (AB) 3074 which would expand the 2015 California Racial Mascots Act to impose a State-mandated local program that prohibits public schools from using any derogatory Native American term as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname, starting on July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, public schools operated by a Native American tribe or a tribal organization would be exempt from the prohibition; and

WHEREAS, AB 3074 would also require the Uniform Complaint Procedures, a system to process allegations of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying to apply to school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames; and

WHEREAS, AB 3074 would fulfill the original intent of the 2015 California Racial Mascots Act to prohibit the use of any racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames in California public schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2023-24 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 3074 to prohibit public schools from using any derogatory Native American term as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname, and make school or athletic team names, mascots, and nicknames subject to the Uniform Complaint Procedures.

PRESENTED BY:

MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilmember, 7th District

SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL

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