



Native American Guardian's Association
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Email: nagaguardians@gmail.com

Date: 7/18/2025

Paul Dolan
CEO Cleveland MLB franchise
2401 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44115

Dear Mr. Dolan,

We are the national Native American Guardian's Association, the representative voice of the 90 percent (documented via multiple professional polls) of American Indians who have no problem with or support the respectful use of Indian names and imagery in sports and the mainstream. We respectfully request that you return the iconic Indians nickname back to the beloved Cleveland MLB franchise.

The unfortunate and unhinged environment of the 2020 George Floyd, BLM, cancel culture insanity directly led to the removal of the most iconic sports brands, namely the Washington Redskins and Cleveland Indians. The political ideology behind such unprecedented erasures is decidedly propagated by anti-American extremists led by mostly whites in academia and supported by their radical far left allies intent on tearing down our great American institutions, traditions, and icons. The overwhelming majority of Americans, including Native Americans, do NOT harbor this vengeful hatred. NAGA was formed in 2014 to be the voice of the "silenced majority" of NON-ACTIVIST Native people who stand against this divisive cancel culture cancer.

In 2017, NAGA sent a letter to the President of the Cleveland Indians offering our assistance. Then again, in 2020, we sent a letter to the team requesting a meeting with upper-level management and ownership. We received only a Zoom meeting with three very low-level, woke millennials. Conversely, you consulted directly with the National Congress of American Indians, an uber woke group funded by George Soros. You additionally sought direction from the American Indian Movement, a group known for their radicalism and with a history of violence highlighted by their hostile takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1972. Reports also reveal you met with local civic groups, translated, far-left political activists. Cancel culture is decidedly parse and parcel of the Democrat party as further evidenced by a 2014 letter signed by all 50 Democrat Senators asking the Washington Redskins to change their name. It is unconscionable that a red state republican would bend his knee to the enemies of proud American traditions.

In a 2021 Cleveland.com article, you are quoted as saying, "The Indians were in a different situation than the Braves. They had no large Native American group to bond with and, perhaps, support them when it came to keeping the name." The article went on further to say, "in doing their research concerning the name change, they talked to the Lake Erie Native American council and the National Congress of American Indians." To be clear, NAGA made two formal written requests to support the team in keeping the iconic Indians name and imagery.

This is all a record of the past. The future is one of a return to common sense and majority rule, as witnessed by the recent landslide red wave election, which saw Native Americans voting for President Trump by margins of 65 percent. Senator Daines of Montana has pressured the Washington Commanders to return the iconic profile Indian logo. Not only is NAGA on board to support your team to reclaim the Indians nickname, we are confident we can facilitate a partnership between the team and a regional tribe in much the same fashion we played an instrumental role in facilitating the tremendous partnership between the Miami Tribe of Indiana and the Indianapolis Indians minor league baseball team.

The exemption to maintain a Native theme, as constructed by the political left, is to partner with a tribal nation. This is evidenced by K-12 schools at the state level, whereby ONLY blue states have passed unconstitutional laws prohibiting public schools from using a Native theme unless backed by a tribe. The same is true at the collegiate level, whereby the NCAA carved out an exemption for Native themed member schools to keep them if sponsored by a namesake tribe, most notably achieved by the Utah Utes and Florida State Seminoles. Although not mandated by semi-professional or professional leagues, all Native themed teams have tribal support. This includes the minor league Spokane Indians (Spokane Tribe) and Indianapolis Indians (Miami Tribe), the Atlanta Braves (Eastern Band Cherokee Nation), Chicago Blackhawks (Sac and Fox Nation), and the Kansas City Chiefs (working group of regional tribes).

The negative path you chose benefits the Native American community in NO way and has left the fan base devastated as is the constant in all such instances of Indian removal as evidenced by the Fighting Sioux, Fighting Illini, Redskins, and an untold number of public K-12 schools. The positive path supported by a 90 percent super majority of rank-and-file Native Americans and an even higher percentage of the loyal fans is a partnership with a tribal nation as a means to remember and educate about our heritage. We are asking for you to meet with representatives of NAGA and supportive tribal leaders to discuss the possibility of a partnership with both a large national Native group and a regional tribe. It is never too late to do the right thing. You stand as a single individual financially invested in the team, but the myriad of fans are emotionally invested. Sports tradition is American tradition, and it is extremely important not just to Cleveland fans, but also to all Americans, including American Indians.

Sincerely,

Tony Henson/President
Cherokee/Choctaw

Frank Blackcloud/Vice President
Dakota Sioux

Eunice Davidson/Co-founder
Dakota Sioux

Jonathan Tso/Board Member
Navajo/Assiniboine Sioux

Crystal Tso/Board Member
Navajo

David Finkenbinder/Board Member
Crow Creek Sioux

Alex Dozier/Board Member
Cherokee