

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE
(An Unincorporated Tribe)

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE DEMANDING RETURN OF LAKOTA REGALIA USED IN PERFORMANCES OF "CHIEF ILLINIWEK", AND IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST BY PEORIA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA THAT MASCOT USE CEASE.

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee has the authority and responsibility, under Article I, Section 5 of the Tribal By-Laws, to "act on behalf of the Council at such times as the Council is not in session" and has "charge of all routine matters" at such times, and

WHEREAS, the theatrics of the University of Illinois mascot, "Chief Illiniwek" involve the use of traditional Lakota buckskin regalia previously owned by Oglala ancestor Frank Fools Crow, and

WHEREAS, the antics of persons playing "Chief Illiniwek" perpetuates a degrading racial stereotype that reflects negatively on all American Indian people, and

WHEREAS the original eagle feathers from the regalia have been replaced by painted turkey feathers, but the eagle feathers have not been returned to the family, and

WHEREAS Oglala Lakota regalia is being misused to represent "Chief Illiniwek," a disrespectful representation of the people of the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Piankeshuw, and Wea nations, in spite of the fact that those nations did not traditionally wear Oglala or other Lakota clothing, and

WHEREAS the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, descendents of the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Piankeshuw, and Wea nations, have requested that the University of Illinois cease use of Chief Illiniwek as a mascot, and

WHEREAS Mel Lone Hill, Oglala elder and descendant of Fools Crow, has shared that it is understood in his family history that Fools Crow was disappointed at the use made of the regalia by those playing "Chief Illiniwek" for the University of Illinois, and that his family would like the regalia and eagle feathers returned to them, and

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Oglala Sioux Tribe desires that its disapproval of the use of the regalia be made known, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Oglala Sioux Tribe hereby expresses its dissatisfaction with the use of Lakota regalia by those playing "Chief Illiniwek" for the University of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Oglala Sioux Tribe demands that the University cease the use of Lakota regalia in the portrayal of "Chief Illiniwek"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Oglala Sioux Tribe hereby demands the return of the regalia and the original eagle feathers to Mel Lone Hill on behalf of the descendants of Fools Crow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Oglala Sioux Tribe supports the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma in its request that the University of Illinois recognize the demeaning nature of the characterization of "Chief Illiniwek" and cease use of this mascot.

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

I, as the undersigned Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, hereby certify that this Resolution was enacted by a vote of: 3 For; 0 Against; 0 Abstain; and 0 Not Voting; during a REGULAR SESSION held on the 17TH day of JANUARY 2007.



ELIZABETH WATERS
Secretary
Oglala Sioux Tribe

A-T-T-E-S-T:



WILLIAM BREWER
President
Oglala Sioux Tribe

