Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Tribal Council
2608 Government Center Dr.
Manistee, MI 49660

Resolution #14-0604-162

Authorizing Tribal Council Speaker to Sign an Open Letter to the National Football League
Players on Behalf of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Seeking Support Against the
Franchise Name “Washington Redskins.

WHEREAS, the status of the Gaá Čhíng Ziibi Daáwaa Aníshinaábek (Little River Band of
Ottawa Indians) as a sovereign and a treaty-making power is confirmed in numerous
treaties, from agreements with the initial colonial powers on this land, to various treaties
with the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (Tribe) is descended from, and is the
political successor to, the Grand River Ottawa Bands, signatories of the 1836 Treaty of
Washington (7 Stat. 491) with the United States, as reaffirmed by federal law in P.L. 103-
324, enacted in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted a new Constitution, pursuant to a vote of the membership on May
27, 1998, which Constitution became effective upon its approval by the Assistant
Secretary-Indian Affairs on July 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe adopted amendments to the Constitution on April 26, 2004, which became
effective upon approval by the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs on May 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, this Tribe is aware that it and its sister Native Sovereign Nations enjoy a respectful
and beneficial relationship with the government of the United States and all the States
within; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe is further aware that relations have not always been as harmonious as they
currently are and the relations have at time been violent, prejudicial and hateful; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe believes that the name “Washington Redskins” heralds to a time when
relationships among native, state and federal governments were violent, prejudicial and
hateful; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe believes that the name word “redskins” is a disparaging and harmful term
that pays no honor whatsoever to the past suffering and current pride of Native peoples; and
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WHEREAS, the Tribe further believes that use of the word by a franchise of the National Football League not only disparages Native peoples, but misappropriates their imagery and heritage and disregards their dignity in pursuit of profits; and

WHEREAS, the Tribe has an opportunity to lend its support through signature to an open letter to National Football League players asking for their support to be stewards of their League’s image.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED, that Tribal Council lends its support to this letter and authorizes its Tribal Council Speaker to sign this letter on behalf of the Tribe.

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and adopted by the Tribal Council with 9 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAINING, 0 ABSENT, at a Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council Regular Meeting held on June 4, 2014 at the Government Center in Manistee, Michigan, with a quorum being present for such a vote.

Sandy Mezeske, Council Recorder

Virgil Johnson, Council Speaker

Attest:

Distribution: Council Records
Tribal Ogema