The City of Belmont

Regular City Council

CityWorks Center

June 06, 2022

DESCRIPTION:	Approval of a Resolution in Support of the "Red Raiders" Name and Logo for South Point High School
MEETING:	2022_06_06 Regular City Council
DEPARTMENT:	Administration
STAFF CONTACT:	Adrian Miller

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY:

None

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

Enclosed is a resolution in support of keeping the "Red Raiders" name and logo for South Point High School. If approved, a signed copy of this resolution will be send to South Point High School, The County Gaston Board of Education, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, and the Native American Guardian's Association.

EXHIBITS:

Red Raider Resolution

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE "RED RAIDERS" NAME AND LOGO FOR SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Belmont:

WHEREAS, South Point High School serves as an integral part of the city's fabric as many of our citizens are teachers, students, alumni and supporters of the school and its athletic teams;

WHEREAS, South Point, originally known as Belmont High School until 1969, adopted the respectful, Native-themed "Red Raiders" name in 1946 to represent its athletic teams;

WHEREAS, the South Point Red Raiders logo depicts the head profile of a Native American with red face paint as was characteristic of an Eastern Woodlands Indian, particularly when going into battle;

WHEREAS, Belmont, and specifically the area of the South Point peninsula, has a long history with the original Native American settlors of the region as many battles were fought between the Cherokee and Catawba tribes over these lands;

WHEREAS, the name "Red Raiders" has a long history of symbolizing very positive attributes including community pride, sportsmanship and strength with generations of Belmont students, staff and citizens and as evidenced through multiple recent community forums on the topic;

WHEREAS, use of Native-themed names, images, or symbols can be authentic, appropriate, and accurate when used carefully with cultural sensitivity and with counsel from local Native American tribes;

WHEREAS, for many years, South Point High School's use of Native-themed names, images, and symbols has been done in a way that respects the history and culture of the American Indian and complements the values of community pride, sportsmanship, and strength that those symbols represent. Consistent with this practice, South Point does not utilize or allow costumed entertainers or "mascots" at its school-sanctioned events;

WHEREAS, a national Native American entity, the Native American Guardian's Association (NAGA), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization advocating for increased education about Native Americans, especially in public educational institutions, and greater recognition of Native American Heritage through the high-profile venues of sports and other public platforms;

WHEREAS, NAGA recently conducted a thorough assessment of the historical context of the South Point Red Raiders name and logo to determine its appropriateness for symbolizing positive attributes of Native American culture and has certified South Point High School as a "Center of Excellence" for Native American remembrance and education;

WHEREAS, various national surveys of Native Americans, conducted from 2002-19 by *The Washington Post, Sports Illustrated* and the University of Pennsylvania, among others, found that 75-90% of Native Americans either have no problem with or support the respectful use of "Redskins" or other Native American names and imagery in sports;

WHEREAS, the contributions of Native Americans to the town, region and state should be acknowledged and South Point's inclusion of American Indian history and imagery in its team name, team logo, curriculum, and school functions is a valuable means to this end;

WHEREAS, the Gaston County Board of Education has a policy of deferring decisions regarding individual school names and logos to each school and its local community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belmont that:

1) The City of Belmont fully supports the appropriate use of the "Red Raiders" name and logo by South Point High School as a positive reflection of the city as a whole and a welcome reminder of the contributions of American Indians to the culture and history of our community.

2) The City of Belmont opposes removal or retirement of the "Red Raiders" name and/or logo.

3) A copy of this resolution be sent to the Principal and Athletic Director of South Point High School, the Gaston County Board of Education, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners and the Native American Guardian's Association.

Adopted this 6th day of June, 2022.

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Charles R. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Jamie Campbell, City Clerk