



PRESS RELEASE
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Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Announces Study:

*Civil Rights and the Impact of Native American Names, Symbols, and Images
in Nebraska School Mascots*

The Nebraska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will convene a series of public, web-based meetings to discuss the impact of the continued use of Native American names, images, and symbols as school mascots in Nebraska. The Committee will consider the extent to which this use may perpetuate or exacerbate harassment, or a racially hostile learning environment for native students in the state. The Committee will hear testimony from tribal leaders, students, advocates, academics, and school and government officials. Members of the public will be invited to speak during an open comment period near the end of each meeting. The Committee will also accept written testimony submitted to mwojnaroski@usccr.gov by Friday February 5, 2021.

The meetings will take place:

- **Panel I: Monday December 14, 2020** from 9:00am - 10:30 am CST
 - Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/37v22RG>
 - Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 199 788 6470
- **Panel II: Wednesday December 16, 2020** from 9:00 am - 10:30 am CST
 - Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/36ANsc0>
 - Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 199 786 9990
- **Panel III: Thursday January 7, 2021** from 9:00 am - 10:30 am CST
 - Online registration at: <https://bit.ly/3ooumMq>
 - Telephone access (audio only): 800-360-9505; Access code: 199 680 1018

Closed captions will be provided. People who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and providing the Service with the above listed conference call number and access code. Individuals requiring other accommodations should contact the regional program unit at (202) 618-4158 five business days prior to the meeting to make their request.

Committee Chair Dr. Jonathan Benjamin Alvarado said, “The Nebraska State Advisory Committee is extremely proud of hosting these hearings because assessing the impact of the uses of Native American mascots, images and names on our Native community is long, long overdue. Our hope is to gain information, insights and reflections on these important matters that can be instrumental in charting a course toward deepening our understanding and crafting responsive solutions to this pressing concern in Nebraska.”

The Nebraska Committee will issue findings and recommendations in a report to the Commission after all testimony has been received.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7th decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For information about the Commission, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).