



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Hazelwood City Council Approves Resolution Affirming Support of and Partnership with 2010 Census

Hazelwood, Mo., (July 6, 2009) – Hazelwood City Council members unanimously approved a resolution at the last Council meeting affirming support of and partnership with the 2010 Census. They are encouraging local residents to participate in events and initiatives to raise overall awareness of the 2010 Census and to increase participation among all populations. The Council is also seeking partnerships with local affiliates and membership organizations to achieve an accurate and complete count for the city of Hazelwood.

“We are committed to making sure that every Hazelwood resident is counted in the 2010 Census,” said Colleen Klos, Hazelwood City Clerk. “There’s too much at stake if undercounting takes place in our community. More than \$300 billion dollars per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities based on Census data. This affects everything from healthcare to education, public transportation to street/highway maintenance, and community development to social services. If we don’t get full participation from our citizenry, we could risk losing our share of this money which is much needed now during tough economic times.”

Although the U.S. is spending \$14 billion on the 2010 Census, the problem of undercounting does exist since only 67 percent of Americans completed and returned their data in 2000. The Census Bureau ended up having to send out workers to knock on doors to tally the rest.

“The census also determines how many Congressional seats a state has,” says William Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution, a nonpartisan think tank. “More representatives in Congress mean greater influence for a state.”

The 2010 Census totals will be used to redraw Congressional and local legislative district lines for the 2012 elections. Any shifts in population could have a significant impact.

Answers provided by respondents for the 2010 Census are protected by law (Title 13 of the U.S. Code, Section 9) and are strictly confidential. It is illegal for the Census Bureau, or its employees, to share personal information with any government agency, including law enforcement, IRS,

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Hazelwood Council Approves 2010 Census Resolution, Add One

Welfare, FBI and Immigration. No court of law, not even the President of the United States, can access individual Census data.

More than 1.4 million workers have been hired by the Census Bureau for the 2010 count, temporarily making it one of the nation's largest employers. Every worker must pass strict security and employment reference checks. Also, they are highly motivated not to violate the confidentiality of information provided by respondents and their household. All Census Bureau employees are subject to a \$250,000 fine and/or a five-year prison term for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

For more information on the 2010 Census, go to www.census.gov.