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For Immediate Release
03/16/10
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Time to Stand Up and Be Counted

County Council encourages residents to participate in 2010 Census

Delaware County Council urges county residents to step up and be counted in the 2010 U.S. Census, which results in data that impacts how federal funding is distributed.

The results of the 2010 U.S. Census will help the federal government determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funding will be allocated each year. By participating in the census, residents can rest assured that their cooperation has bettered the community through enhanced hospitals and health care services, improved schools and day care centers, safer and less congested roads, more effective emergency response, expanded public transportation and more.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The first U.S. Census took place in 1790.

On Tuesday, March 16, Delaware County Council passed a resolution declaring its commitment as a U.S. Census partner to encourage participation in the 2010 U.S. Census. Ben Ramos, regional partnership coordinator for the U.S. Census Bureau, accepted the resolution.

An educational display on the U.S. Census is posted in the lobby of the Government Center, Media, through April 9. To increase awareness and encourage participation, County Council has posted a link on its Web site to www.2010.census.gov and is airing a public service announcement on the County Web site and government access TV program at DelcoTV, Channel 190 on Comcast.

Census Day is April 1, 2010. Census awareness began in early March with an advance notification letter. Every address in the United States will receive a simple 10 question 2010 Census questionnaire during the month of March. The 2010 Census form is the shortest in recent decades and should only take ten minutes to complete. An additional reminder letter will also be mailed following the questionnaire.

Questionnaire responses should represent the household, as it exists on April 1. All people living at that address should be counted. That includes people of all races and ethnic groups; both citizens and non-citizens must be counted. *(more)*

(2010 Census continued)

Upon completion, the questionnaire must be mailed back to the U.S. Census Bureau. Residents who do not complete and return the census questionnaire will be visited by a Census Bureau Field Representative, who will gather the information.

From April to July 2010, census field representatives will visit every household that does not mail back a completed 2010 Census form. Field representatives must present ID badges and will ask only the 10 questions related to members of the household. By mailing the response, individuals can help save millions in taxpayer dollars, while providing information that will benefit Delaware County residents.

“Participation in the 2010 Census is vital for all of our residents,” said Council member Thomas McGarrigle. “Not only do the census numbers determine federal funding for invaluable programs, but they also determine the number of House seats and Electoral votes in Pennsylvania.”

“The census is literally a portrait of our county, our state and our nation,” McGarrigle said.

During the last U.S. Census, conducted in 2000, an estimated 102,000 Pennsylvania residents failed to return their census form. As a result of that census, two House seats and Electoral votes were lost in Pennsylvania.

The estimated population in Delaware County following the 2000 Census was 550,864, a rise from the 1990 estimate of 547,651.

“Although the change may seem miniscule, these estimates are a crucial aspect of governing effectively,” said McGarrigle. “Without accurate representation of our population, the government cannot properly allocate funds that will improve the standard of living for our residents. I urge County residents to take a proactive step for their community by returning the completed 2010 Census form.”

The mailing package from the Census Bureau consists of a 10-question form and a postage-paid envelope. The census **does not** ask about the legal status of respondents, nor does it ask for their Social Security numbers. All information obtained is confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual’s answers with anyone, including welfare, immigration, or local zoning or code enforcement officials. By federal law, every Census Bureau employee must take an oath of confidentiality.

The Census Bureau does not send out any confirmations that your form was received. Any request for census information from the Census Bureau will be clearly identified as coming from the U.S. Census Bureau and as OFFICIAL BUSINESS of the United States. It is a federal offense for anyone to pretend they represent the Census Bureau.

* For more information, visit www.census.gov/2010census. For employment information to be a census taker call (866) 861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov. Applications are still being accepted.

