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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Census Task Force
July 11, 2019, 6:30 PM
Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center, Room 6
415 East 93rd Street**

Minutes

PLEASE NOTE: The Census Task Force recommends a Resolution to the full Community Board, which votes on a Resolution to be sent to the appropriate governing agency. These Resolutions are advisory; the decision of the governing agency is binding. Members of the public who are interested in the issues addressed tonight are invited, but not required to attend the **Full Board meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at the New York Blood Center 310 East 67th Street, Auditorium**. Please contact the Board Office for further details.

Present: Loraine Brown, Craig Lader, and Rebecca Lamorte, Joli Golden*

Absent: Monica McKane – Public Member

*Joli Golden – U.S. Census Bureau Specialist

The Census Task Force was called to order at 6:54 p.m.

The Agenda was approved as written.

The purpose of the meeting was to approve Resolution to support Community Board 8 partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau and New York State Counts 2020, provide the community with educational information on the 2020 Census and provide an update on the “citizenship” question later this summer that could be shared—the questionnaire is being printed without the “citizenship” question.

The meeting began with a discussion of the Resolution and whether or not the “citizenship” question should be left in the Resolution. After discussion the Census Task Force unanimously pass the Resolution and to keep the “citizenship” question, as written, in the Resolution due to the ambiguity of the actions of the Trump Administration.

Ms. Joli Golden, Partnership Specialist with the US Census Bureau’s New York Regional Office was not able to provide an update due to the current’s Administration decision to challenge the “citizenship” question.

Pharein Griffith from New York Counts 2020 coalition was unable to attend due to the “citizenship” question challenge.

Census Task Force conducted three Census 2020 Job Opportunities:

1. Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center – evening meeting – 25 attendees
2. Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center – afternoon meeting – 36 attendees
3. Roosevelt Island Senior Center
 - a. afternoon meeting – Session 1 – 40
 - b. afternoon meeting – Session 2 – 33

New Business:

Rebecca Lamorte announced that this would be her last meeting as Co-Chair of the Census Task Force and that she would be stepping down due to personal reasons of balancing work and other challenges. The Co-Chair wished her well and stated when ready Ms. Lamorte is welcomed to return and assume the Co-Chair position. We appreciate all of her contributions in making this Census Task Force a success.

U.S. Census Bureau will conduct a stakeholder webinar on the communications campaign for the upcoming 2020 Census on **Wednesday, July 17, 1-2 pm ET.**

Census Task Force will conduct an evening Census 2020 Job Opportunities Workshop at Roosevelt Island Senior Center and Lenox Hill Senior Center during the first week of August 2019.

The Census Task Force goal is to host an event per month and welcome all suggestions from CB8 members and public.

Ms. Lamorte suggested that we reach out to the students at Hunter College and the various VFW posts in our area.

Resolutions for Approval:

WHEREAS the United States Constitution requires a count be conducted every 10 years of all persons in the country;

WHEREAS the Census serves to gather demographic information which in turn dictates how \$685 billion in federal funding is allocated to state and local governments for a variety of services including, but not limited to, housing, education, and healthcare;

WHEREAS the Census also guides federal, state, and local redistricting;

WHEREAS a fully funded Census that respects the safeguards in place to protect the personal information gathered, is paramount to getting an accurate count;

WHEREAS a citizenship question has been decided by the U.S. Supreme Court as “contrived” but challenged by the Trump Administration;

WHEREAS the inclusion of this citizenship question would only serve to scare and disenfranchise communities from participating in the Census, eroding the accuracy of the count;

WHEREAS the 2010 Census experienced an undercount, without a citizenship question, making the inclusion of this potential question increasingly problematic for an accurate count in the 2020 Census;

WHEREAS the funding allocated for the 2020 Census is grossly insufficient to handle the needs of the count and will therefore affect its validity;

WHEREAS New York Counts 2020 is a statewide coalition dedicated to ensuring a full and fair count throughout the state, especially for hard-to-count and marginalized communities;

WHEREAS New York Counts 2020 was an integral part of securing \$20 million in additional funding from New York State for Census outreach and education;

WHEREAS it is imperative Community Board 8 get a correct count of individuals living in the district to ensure our neighborhood receives the federal dollars it and its constituents needs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 will:

- become a member of the New York Counts 2020 coalition
- oppose the inclusion of a citizenship question in the 2020 Census
- urge New York City & New York State to allocate additional funding for the 2020 Census to aide in an accurate count

Census Task Force unanimously [3-0] approved the above Resolution to partner with the U.S. Census Bureau and New York Counts 2020 Coalition.

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 pm

Loraine Brown and Rebecca Lamorte, Co-Chairs