

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEES ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION

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November 19, 2009

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HELD AT: Hearing Room
250 Broadway - 16th FL

B E F O R E: LARRY B. SEABROOK, KENDALL STEWART
Chairpersons

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Darlene Mealy
Michael C. Nelson
Robert Jackson
Annabel Palma
Charles S. Barron
David I. Weprin

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Stacey Cumberbatch
City Census Coordinator
NYC 2010 Census Office

Lester A. Farthing
Regional Director, New York Regional Office
US Census Bureau

Maggie Williams
Counsel
Senator Schneiderman

Sean Barry
Director
NYC AIDS Housing Network

Susan Lerner
Executive Director
Common Cause New York

Joseph Little
Member
Community Voices Heard

CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Good

afternoon. My name is Larry B. Seabrook and I am the Chair of the City Council's Committee on Civil Rights. Thank you for attending today's hearing. Today we will be conducting an oversight hearing on Executive Order 127 of 2009, which will set up the New York City 2010 Census Office to help the regional Census Office as well as other City agencies and offices identify the City's hard to count areas and populations.

We will also be hearing two resolutions that are currently in the Civil Rights Committee, Proposed Resolution 190-A and Resolution 2661. Proposed Resolution 190-A, introduced by Council Member Jackson, calls on the New York City Legislature to amend the election law so that prisoners are counted as residents of the county in which they reside prior to incarceration rather than as residents of the county in which they are detained. I recently introduced Resolution 2661, which states a similar purpose; it calls upon the United States Census Bureau to enforce a census enumeration policy in which incarcerated juveniles and adults are

1 counted in keeping with the one person, one vote
2 principle inherent in the 14th Amendment of the
3 Constitution to ensure that resources for the
4 general welfare of all citizens are equitably and
5 appropriately distributed. Article 1 Section 2 of
6 the United States Constitution mandates that a
7 census of the country's population be taken every
8 ten years. Data gathered is used to redraw
9 congressional and legislative district lines,
10 allocate funds for government programs, determine
11 areas in need of schools, road and other
12 infrastructural necessities and identify
13 demographic trends which can be used to predict
14 future community-specific needs. In sum, an
15 accurate census is needed to meet the needs of our
16 communities.
17

18 Unfortunately the 2000 census was
19 fraught with inaccuracies. It missed
20 approximately 6.4 million people and counted at
21 least 3.1 million people more than once. People
22 of color, low-income residents and renters were
23 among the groups particularly affected by
24 undercounting. Blacks and Latinos were
25 undercounted by 2.17% and 2.85% respectively,

1
2 compared to the 1.18% undercounting of the entire
3 population. New York City's population was
4 undercounted by approximately 200,200 individuals,
5 which again was a higher share than the national
6 percentage. In some neighborhoods in our City the
7 Hispanic population was undercounted by over four
8 percent. I will leave it to Council Member
9 Stewart to discuss the extent to which the City's
10 substantial immigrant population played a role in
11 its undercounting.

12 Several efforts are being made in
13 New York State to increase the accuracy of the
14 2010 census. At the State level, Governor
15 Patterson, by executive order, established a New
16 York 2010 Census Complete Count Committee, which
17 will work with various governmental entities and
18 non-governmental organizations to identify
19 barriers to full census participation and develop
20 strategies to overcome those barriers. The
21 Governor and State Legislature have also
22 appropriated funds in 2009-2010 State budget for
23 services and expenses necessary for community
24 outreach to assist in reducing the undercount in
25 the 2010 census.

1
2 At the local level the Mayor has
3 issued an Executive Order, which establishes NYC
4 2010 Census Office, which would assist the Census
5 Regional Office by working with the Department of
6 City Planning and Mayor's Community Affairs Unit,
7 the Office of Immigrant Affairs and City
8 Commission on Human Rights to identify hard to
9 count populations and neighborhoods. The Office
10 would also be required to assist the regional
11 office in raising awareness of the Census and to
12 work with City agencies to promote the Census
13 through existing City activities.

14 As I mentioned a few moments ago,
15 in addition to learning more about City, State and
16 Federal efforts to increase the accuracy of the
17 Census in New York City, we will be hearing
18 Proposed Resolution 190 and Resolution 2261,
19 introduced by Council Member Jackson and myself
20 respectively. Both resolutions address a similar
21 but significant issue in the inclusion of
22 prisoners in the Census track of their
23 correctional facilities as opposed to their pre-
24 incarceration addresses. Including non-voting
25 populations in the correctional facility pre-

1
2 incarceration Census track artificially
3 strengthened the voting power of, and increased
4 the allocation of government resources for the
5 track's non-prisoner populations at the expense of
6 residents of the prisoners' original census track.
7 In New York State, two-thirds of the prisoners
8 originate from New York City. Give that fact and
9 the fact that communities of color make up about
10 80% of the prison population in the state, the
11 continued inclusion of prisoners in a prison
12 census track not only hurts our communities of
13 color, it also hurts the City as a whole. The two
14 resolutions that I mentioned would seek to
15 eliminate this discriminatory policy. It is
16 imperative that the Censuses execute a complete
17 and accurate enumeration of our City's residents.
18 We must not have another 2000 Census, where
19 communities of color are dramatically undercounted
20 and thereby deprived of their fair share of both
21 representation and government funding.

22 At today's hearing I look forward
23 to learning what efforts the City, State and
24 Federal Government have on making to ensure that
25 every resident of our City gets counted. And I'd

1
2 like to thank the Committee Counsel, Julene
3 Beckford; the Policy Analyst, Israel Rodriguez;
4 and Policy Analyst, Damien Butvick. And now I'd
5 like to turn the microphone over to the esteemed
6 chair of the Committee on Immigration, the
7 Honorable Kendall Stewart from Brooklyn.

8 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Thank you and
9 good afternoon. My name is Kendall Stewart and I
10 am the Chair of the Immigration Committee in the
11 Council. We are here today to discuss the
12 upcoming 2010 Census and the efforts of the NYC
13 2010 Census Office to work with City Offices,
14 Agencies and community-based organizations to
15 identify hard to count populations and to raise
16 awareness about the importance and benefits of
17 participating in the Census.

18 The hard to count populations of
19 particular importance to the Committee are new
20 immigrant communities and limited English
21 proficient communities. As of the 2000 Census,
22 there are approximately 8 million City residents
23 and approximately 3 million of those residents
24 were immigrants. It has been estimated that the
25 2000 Census missed undocumented immigrants at the

1
2 rate of 10 to 15%. Households of undocumented
3 immigrants meet housing and demographic criteria
4 that can be linked to their failure to respond to
5 the Census. Undocumented immigrants often face
6 economic challenges, speak little or no English
7 and lack the English literacy skills necessary to
8 complete the Census questionnaire. But that does
9 not mean that every effort possible should not be
10 made to ensure that this population is properly
11 counted. By undercounting the immigrant and
12 limited-English proficient populations, often
13 plagued with socio-economic difficulties, there
14 can be a dramatic reduction in federal assistance
15 funding that often affects programs that could
16 ultimately benefit these communities.

17 The 2010 Census will let us know if
18 our city's immigrant population has increased.
19 And by making sure that all New Yorkers are
20 counted in the upcoming Census, we are securing
21 future resources to the City of New York and
22 empowering all communities, in particular
23 immigrant communities.

24 Today we look forward to finding
25 out what efforts are being made by the new NYC

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2 2010 Census Office to work with City Offices such
3 as the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, as
4 well as community-based organizations and
5 religious institutions to ensure that these hard
6 to count communities are approached and encouraged
7 to participate in the 2010 Census.

8 I would like to thank the Committee
9 on Civil Rights for participating in this hearing.
10 And before I call on Council Member Jackson to
11 speak, I would like to recognize that we have been
12 joined by Council Member Eugene and Council Member
13 Ferreras. At this time I recognize Council Member
14 Jackson, the sponsor of Reso 190-A.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you
16 Chair Stewart and Chair Seabrook. Let me thank
17 you for the opportunity to speak on this extremely
18 important matter. And some people may think that
19 it's not an important matter because the Census
20 count is not until, you know, 2010. But as you
21 know the experience and just the statistics and
22 the undercounting in the year 2000 and in previous
23 decades lets everyone know who is concerned about
24 this particular matter that this is extremely
25 important, and especially in urban areas, more

1 specifically in New York City where we live and we
2 work and where we depend on the services of the
3 Federal, State and local municipalities.
4

5 As the primary sponsor of
6 Resolution 190-A, let me just say that this
7 resolution requests a census policy based on
8 common sense and transparency and align the census
9 with constitutional standards already spelled out
10 at the Federal, State levels. Prisoners while
11 incarcerated do not need the services that funding
12 in based on current census count which is
13 provided. So for example, if they need social
14 services in upstate prisons, they get it right in
15 the prisons. It is not coming from the county,
16 it's coming from the State. If they need anything
17 else, medical attention, it's provided right there
18 by the State. You're not going into the local
19 hospitals, not unless it's an extreme emergency.

20 In essence, the type of services
21 that are needed is when these prisoners go back
22 home where they come from. And approximately 75%
23 of the prisoners incarcerated in upstate prisons
24 come from New York City. And they need to be
25 counted where they live, not where they're in

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2 prison and incarcerated. The communities that we
3 live in, in this urban city of ours, when these
4 prisoners come back, they normally come to CBOs
5 that provide the type of counseling that are
6 needed, the job training and development, social
7 services and all the other services that prisoners
8 need when they come out of incarceration from
9 upstate New York. So that's where the money is
10 needed from federal, State and local level, and
11 that's where they should be counted. And so this
12 resolution is asking that they be counted where
13 they reside, where they lived before being
14 incarcerated. That's the true value of what it
15 should be and not where they are at the time when
16 the census is counted, whatever date that is in
17 2010.

18 So I ask you, both chairs, to
19 consider this resolution and I ask my colleagues
20 that are here and that are not here to sign on to
21 Resolution 190-A. And we have approximately 12
22 sponsors already and we are steamrolling to get
23 hopefully 50 sponsors signed on to this particular
24 resolution so that we can move forward and vote on
25 it prior to our term expiring, which is the last

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2 scheduled Stated Meeting is December 21st of 2009.
3 Thank you both for co-chairing this important
4 meeting.

5 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: We have been
6 joined by Council Member Mealy and Council Member
7 Palma. Does any one of the members have any
8 opening statement?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I don't have
10 an opening statement, but I would like to request
11 that my name be added to Resolution 2261.

12 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right.
13 Any other? All right. At this time we would like
14 to call on Stacey Cumberbatch from the New York
15 City Census 2010 Office and Lester A. Farthing
16 [phonetic], also from the US Census Bureau. What
17 you could do first is to identify yourself and
18 then we will get straight into your testimony.

19 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Stacey
20 Cumberbatch, City Census Coordinator with the NYC
21 2010 Census Office.

22 LESTER A. FARTHING: I'm Lester A.
23 Farthing and I'm Regional Director from the US
24 Census Bureau's New York Regional Office.

25 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Good afternoon

1
2 Chairs Seabrook and Stewart and Members of the
3 Committees on Immigration and Civil Rights. Thank
4 you for the opportunity to speak with you today
5 about efforts underway by the Mayor's Office to
6 complement the work of the US Census Bureau to
7 ensure a full and accurate count of the City's
8 population in the upcoming decennial Census. My
9 name is Stacy Cumberbatch and I was appointed on
10 April 7th, by Mayor Bloomberg, to serve as the
11 City's 2010 Census Coordinator. Joining me today
12 is Tony Farthing, Director of the US Census
13 Bureau's New York Regional Office, who is
14 responsible for overseeing the census operations
15 in New York City. I will provide an overview of
16 the City's population, the upcoming 2010 Census,
17 the challenges of conducting a complete count of
18 the City's population and what the City is doing
19 to address some of these challenges.

20 As all of you know the City of New
21 York is the most populous and ethnically diverse
22 city in the United States, with a population of
23 8.36 million people as of July 2008. The City
24 Planning Department's population division projects
25 that following the 2010 Census the City's

1
2 population will be 8.4 million people.

3 Currently over 3 million of New
4 York City's residents are foreign born, about one-
5 fifth of whom, which is about 600,000 people have
6 arrived since 200,000. The top ten foreign-born
7 populations hail from the Dominican Republic,
8 China, Mexico, Jamaica, Guyana, Ecuador, Haiti,
9 Trinidad and Tobago, India and Columbia. New York
10 has the largest Chinese population of any city
11 outside of Asia. More people of Caribbean
12 ancestry live in New York City than any city
13 outside of the Caribbean. Over 2.27 million
14 Hispanics live in New York City, more than any
15 other City in the United States. Non-Hispanic New
16 Yorkers of African descent number 1.95 million,
17 more than double the count of any other city in
18 the United States. More than 200 languages are
19 spoken here with almost half of New Yorkers
20 speaking a language other than English at home.
21 The top five languages spoken are Spanish,
22 Chinese, Russian, Italian and French Creole.

23 The United States Constitution,
24 Article 1 Section 2 requires that the total number
25 of people regardless of citizenship, immigration

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2 or legal status residing in the United States and
3 its territories be counted every ten years. The
4 next Census will occur in March 2010. Census data
5 is used to determine the number of Congressional
6 and State Legislative seats that will be allotted
7 to the City as well as the size of each City
8 Council district. Following the Census in 2000
9 New York State lost two congressional seats, going
10 from 31 congressional representatives to 29. It
11 is anticipated that following the 2010 census New
12 York State could lose an additional two seats.
13 Census data will be used in part to determine the
14 amount of federal funding the City receives each
15 year for the next ten years for education,
16 healthcare, job training, transportation and a
17 host of other programs critical to meeting the
18 needs of New Yorkers.

19 According to a 2008 Brookings
20 Institution Analysis, New York City received \$25
21 billion in federal funding based in part on census
22 information. The Census Bureau will mail a form
23 to approximately 3.5 million households in New
24 York City in March 2010.

25 I'd like to direct your attention

1
2 to slide 1, which is a sample of the form. The
3 Census form will be the shortest form in the
4 history of the Census with only ten questions.
5 For the first time the census form will be mailed
6 in Spanish and a language guide will be included
7 explaining how to obtain the form in 59 other
8 languages. The form is mailed to, quote,
9 resident, at a specific address with an associated
10 barcode used by the Census bureau to track if the
11 form is mailed back. The census form will ask
12 questions about each member in the household,
13 name, how they are related, sex, age ethnicity,
14 whether the person his Hispanic or non-Hispanic,
15 race whether the household owns or rents and
16 whether the household member sometimes resides
17 elsewhere. The census form does not ask any
18 questions about a person's citizenship,
19 immigration or legal status, nor does it ask about
20 income.

21 The form will be mailed out in mid
22 March and we are going to encourage every
23 household to fill it out completely and mail it
24 back immediately, but no later than what's
25 considered Census Day, which is April 1st, 2010.

1
2 Under federal law the personal information
3 provided on the Census form is strictly
4 confidential and remains so for 72 years. The
5 information cannot be shared with anyone,
6 including Federal, State or City agencies.

7 The City's diversity has always
8 been it's strength, but it also poses a challenge
9 to making sure that everyone is counted in next
10 year's census. Recognizing the importance of an
11 accurate census count to the City, Mayor Bloomberg
12 signed Executive Order 127 in April, creating the
13 NYC 2010 Census Office. The Office's mission is
14 to work with the New York Census Bureau's New York
15 Regional Office and lead efforts to engage City
16 agencies, community-based organizations,
17 businesses, non-profits, leaders of faith-based
18 organizations in all sectors to focus particular
19 attention on outreach to New York's diverse
20 immigrant communities and neighborhoods who have
21 been historically hard to count and in the past
22 have had low participation rates in the census.

23 While the City's population
24 exceeded 8 million people for the first time in
25 2000, only 55% of households mailed back a

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2 completed census form, much lower than the
3 national average of 67%. And I'd like to draw
4 your attention to slide 2, which is a map showing
5 the response rates to the 2000 census. It has an
6 overlay of the City Council districts as well.
7 And actually the darkest areas on the map indicate
8 that those are neighborhoods that had less than
9 40% mail back rate on the Census in 2000. The
10 yellow areas means that it had a mail back rate of
11 more than 60%.

12 So as you can see from the response
13 rate map, there are several neighborhoods that
14 have a high concentration of census tracts with
15 mail-in response rates to the 2000 Census which
16 fell below 40%. So just pointing your attention,
17 so some of the neighborhoods taken borough-by-
18 borough is a large area of the Northeast Bronx;
19 Central Harlem, Central Brooklyn, Southeast Queens
20 and part of the Rockaways, as well as areas of the
21 North Shore of Staten Island.

22 So there are a few areas in the
23 City where the mail-in response rate to the 2000
24 Census actually got worse from 1990's census. So
25 pointing your attention to the third slide—and

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2 these slides were put together by New York City
3 Department of Planning, their population division
4 and they're all based on census data from the
5 Census Bureau. So this map is a comparison of
6 census tracts that were low responding in 1990 and
7 we wanted to see how they did in 2000. Okay, so
8 only the colored tracts were actually low
9 responding in 1990 and in 2000. So we wanted to
10 see did certain areas get better or did certain
11 areas get worse or did they stay the same. If
12 they're shaded in red or brown they actually got
13 worse from '09 to 2000. So you can see the
14 barcode on the side. If they are shaded white
15 they basically stayed the same. So they may have
16 been low responding in '90, they remained so in
17 2000.

18 So there are many different reasons
19 why people do not participate in the Census. For
20 example many immigrants are fearful that their
21 undocumented status might be disclosed to Federal
22 authorities if they complete a census form.
23 Families living double, tripled up in one-family
24 homes may fear that information provided on the
25 Census form will be shared with City agencies such

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2 as Buildings or Fire Department. Some people
3 simply do not know what the Census is, the value
4 it provides and their participation in it can
5 bring resources to their community. Others do not
6 understand that their participation in the Census
7 helps the government to properly enforce civil
8 rights laws and the Voting Rights Act.

9 In a city as large and diverse as
10 New York, we have to mobilize trusted community
11 voices and institutions across the City to allay
12 fears, reinforce the message that personal
13 information on the Census form is strictly
14 confidential and to explain the concrete benefits
15 of an accurate count to each community.

16 The goal of the NYC 2010 Census
17 Office is to ensure an accurate count of all New
18 Yorkers by increasing the number of City residents
19 regardless of citizenship or immigration status
20 completing the 2010 Census form in March and
21 mailing it back promptly. Thereafter our goal is
22 to make sure that household residents who did not
23 mail back a census form in time then cooperate
24 with census workers who will make field visits to
25 their homes starting in late April to personally

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2 collect information about the people living in the
3 household.

4 There are many examples of how the
5 City is aggressively acting to leverage its own
6 resources and capacity to promote an accurate
7 count in 2010. We're working with City Agencies
8 such as City Planning Department, Mayor's Office
9 of Immigrant Affairs, The Mayor's Community
10 Assistance Unit, the New York City Housing
11 Authority, The Borough Presidents Offices and
12 other offices of other elected officials to
13 identify hard to count groups and neighborhoods in
14 the City and work to overcome some of the barriers
15 to participation I mentioned earlier; use of 311
16 to receive inquiries regarding the 2010 Census and
17 provide timely updated information as the Census
18 operation rolls out over the coming months.
19 Communicating online via NYC.gov website dedicated
20 to the 2010 Census, which is translated into 18
21 languages with a sample census form, basic
22 information on the census, timelines, pertinent
23 web links to other information as well as maps
24 showing how the City did in 2000; working with the
25 Department of Education to provide outreach to

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2 parents through the network of community education
3 councils and to incorporate the Census in Schools
4 Curriculum for kids developed by the US Census
5 Bureau; working with the Department of Youth and
6 Community Development to provide outreach to their
7 extensive network of contractors who provide
8 services in many of the hard to count communities
9 in the City; working with the Health and Hospitals
10 Corporation to provide outreach through their
11 network of 11 public hospitals and other
12 facilities serving historically hard to count
13 populations; and work with the New York City
14 Housing Authority and resident leaders to target
15 outreach to all people whether they are authorized
16 residents, on a lease or not, living in public
17 housing or in apartments paid in part by the
18 Section 8 program.

19 Our work is ongoing with many other
20 City agencies to leverage their existing
21 communications networks to promote the 2010
22 Census. We have also developed very strong
23 working relationships with a number of community-
24 based non-profit organizations, including faith-
25 based organizations such as churches and

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2 synagogues throughout the City.

3 In June we worked with the New York
4 Community Media Alliance, the New York Immigration
5 Coalition and the US Census Bureau to co-host a
6 briefing on the 2010 Census for the Ethnic and
7 Community Press. The joint effort resulted in
8 many articles appearing in ethnic press about the
9 importance of the upcoming census. Over the past
10 several months we have also participated in scores
11 of meetings and events across the City to
12 encourage mass participation in the Census.
13 Earlier this week Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner
14 Tiven of the New York City Commission on the
15 United Nations Consular Core and Protocol co-
16 hosted a briefing entitled, The Changing Face of
17 New York City in the 2010 Census for 110 Consulate
18 Generals. Acknowledging the important role of
19 Consulate offices in immigrant communities, we
20 requested that each office serve as a point of
21 distribution of census brochures and material,
22 recommend trusted community leaders and
23 institutions we should contact to help in this
24 effort and we requested that each consulate
25 designate a staff person to be their 2010 Census

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2 point person to attend a 2010 Census informational
3 seminar in late January.

4 We look forward to working with
5 members of the City Council to promote the 2010
6 Census and ensure a full and accurate count of
7 every New Yorker. Thank you.

8 LESTER A. FARTHING: Good
9 afternoon. I also have a PowerPoint presentation,
10 so we're going to just wait for Ms. Finley to load
11 that up for you. And Council Members we brought
12 copies for you for you to go along with me. Do
13 you have copies of that? It's a census folder.
14 Yeah, and inside we have the presentation that I'm
15 going to speak on.

16 [Pause]

17 LESTER A. FARTHING: Bear with me
18 for just one second, please.

19 [Pause]

20 LESTER A. FARTHING: That's all
21 right.

22 [Pause]

23 LESTER A. FARTHING: Okay.
24 Yolanda, we're all set? Well good afternoon
25 Members of the Council. It's a pleasure to

1
2 present before you. First of all I'd like to
3 thank you for allowing both Stacey and myself to
4 speak. I think it's going to serve you well in
5 hearing what we're doing for the City of New York.
6 Stacey and I, as she said earlier, we work very
7 closely together. We both recognize the
8 challenges that we have in New York and I'm very
9 pleased that the Office of the Mayor has provided
10 a staff such as Stacey to open up the various
11 networks of New York City to get the word out
12 about the Census.

13 So if we can go to the first slide.
14 I want to talk to you a little bit about the
15 timeline for the Census. In April of '09 and June
16 of '09 we spent a lot of time working with New
17 York City to get information to improve our
18 address lists for all of the housing units that
19 are in the City. It's a very extensive list of
20 units and we're currently working on it now to
21 finalize everything. This is the list of units
22 that will be given to the post office so that we
23 can mail out Census forms to every household
24 across New York City.

25 In that time now as Stacey talked

1
2 about earlier, we've been working with her office
3 to really try to get the word out about the
4 Census. We call this our awareness phase, and
5 again, it's really as Stacey showed you on the
6 map, we're really trying to target those areas
7 that we know have not performed well in the Census
8 in the past in terms of mailing out the Census
9 form. And so we're trying to concentrate on those
10 areas, but also the map doesn't really tell you
11 the story. That's information from 2000, so we
12 realize too you have to stay in front of the
13 curve, so to speak in knowing areas that have
14 changed over time, over a ten-year period and even
15 less than that. So we're trying to be out in
16 front of that as well.

17 Just to go through some timeline
18 specifics here, the Census forms will be mailed
19 out on March 15th and we're asking everybody, as
20 Stacey said, that everybody gets the form back at
21 least by April 1st, which is our Census day,
22 meaning filling it out and putting down everybody
23 that lives in your house.

24 I do want to recognize to the
25 Council that—because people ask me is there a

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2 deadline. Well the Census never wants to tell you
3 there's a deadline. I can say safely that if you
4 mail the form back by April 15th you are pretty
5 much in our register. Stacey talked about the
6 barcode label that's on the questionnaire. That
7 way the Census bureau recognizes that a
8 questionnaire came back from your household and
9 that means that we won't have to send out
10 individuals to knock on doors or that particular
11 household door to collect census information. Now
12 we'll start that process for hiring people to
13 knock on doors in April of 2010, and we start the
14 process of actually going out and knocking on
15 doors following our training, and that's usually
16 the first week of May.

17 Just for those here that don't
18 know, we'll continue that knocking on the door
19 process through June of 2010. In July we'll
20 probably have some residual work to do, which
21 might require some knocking on doors with much
22 less staff, but there will still be some work to
23 be done. And we typically finish up our census
24 collection work around that time. And by of
25 course December 2010, December 31st, 2010, we have

1
2 to give President Obama State Census statistics
3 and a population count on that date.

4 So we can go to the next slide.
5 Just lost signal, okay. Well you can follow along
6 since you have your packets.

7 One of the ways that we're trying
8 to reach out at least to the community and
9 especially those hard to count communities is
10 through our partnership program. And one of the
11 things that we do is we try to go out and we hire
12 individuals locally from New York City that have a
13 background in working with the community, they
14 understand the communities. Of course as you well
15 know, I don't have to tell you this, we're such a
16 diverse community in itself, so we have to hire a
17 very diverse partnership staff who can go out and
18 reach these individuals. We're looking for what
19 we call service providers, trusted voices,
20 individuals who can in fact invite us in to their
21 network of what they're doing; if they're a health
22 service provider, if they're having meetings of
23 any kind can they invite us to those meetings;
24 community organizations, even businesses. We ask
25 all of them, if you have time, to let us come;

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2 elected officials of course. We've asked many of
3 you if you can invite us out when you're having a
4 meeting.

5 And what we try to do is to talk
6 with everyone about the Census and the importance
7 of it, but we also try to leave them with
8 something so that they feel that they can become a
9 trusted voice or ambassador for us to speak to
10 other individuals. The Census Bureau clearly
11 recognizes that having government officials
12 talking to individuals, especially those that have
13 some doubts about participating in the census is
14 not always the best way, you're not always going
15 to get results. And we realize having the trusted
16 voices helping us is probably the better way to do
17 that, and that's what we aim to do in our
18 partnership program.

19 For New York City we have about a
20 minimum of 45 people. I have a lot of others that
21 work with us that are partnership specialists with
22 all the diverse communities here and then we also
23 have about 60 assistants that work with us
24 representing our diverse communities as well.

25 Right now the program is built on a

1
2 campaign of It's In Our Hands. That's the first
3 slogan that you're seeing right now with all of
4 our print materials that we do at events. We are
5 going to later--and unfortunately I don't have the
6 PowerPoint to utilize this--but later on as we move
7 along with the program into January of 2010,
8 you're going to see an advertising campaign, I'm
9 going to talk about that in a minute, that is
10 probably the best advertising campaign the city
11 has ever done to reach all of our ethnic
12 communities. But in the meantime our on the
13 ground folks that are doing the work, they're
14 reaching out to State and local tribal
15 organizations, minority coalitions, ethnic
16 minority coalitions, the schools and educators,
17 our religious leaders, our clergy are going to
18 play a big part in this for us. And even our,
19 again as Stacey mentioned, local media outlets and
20 other businesses as well.

21 I'm on slide number 5 just for
22 those of you who are following since the
23 PowerPoint isn't working.

24 One of the things that happens that
25 I think is very instrumental, you know, we're

1 going to be opening up local census offices.
2 We're just about ready to launch that, I'm hoping
3 by the beginning of December where all of them
4 will be open. Those offices as they open, we're
5 going to open about 17 within New York City. But
6 those offices are what I call deployment offices.
7 They're so I can deploy the staff that's going to
8 have to knock on the doors later in April that I
9 talked about. They're not necessarily walk-in
10 centers for I didn't get a form or something like
11 that. What we will be doing is opening up Be
12 Counted Questionnaire Assistance Sites throughout
13 New York City. And what we've done through our
14 partnership program, we've asked for partners who
15 are willing to give us space, it's basically
16 storefront space, a church—those same
17 organizations that I talked about, health service
18 providers. We're even looking, we're going even
19 further down here, even barbershops, beauty salons
20 that are willing to allow us to put a table in,
21 we'll put in a paid census person and we'll have
22 what we call two things; it's questionnaire
23 assistance to provide to someone that needs help
24 with their form, and also questionnaires that
25

1
2 we'll put in the site, because there are going to
3 be a lot of folks that say I didn't get a
4 questionnaire at my home and we realize that. We
5 have folks that are living in situations that
6 there isn't even a mailbox and no one even knows
7 that someone is living in that particular
8 household or in a basement or something like that.
9 So we want to make sure that we get the word out
10 so that they understand that they can actually go
11 out and get a form if they didn't get one. And
12 we're hoping our service providers and the various
13 folks we partner with will be doing that as well.

14 I can't say there's a big cap on
15 the number, but my goal for New York is to make
16 sure that we have saturation and that in each of
17 these Questionnaire Assistance Center Sites that
18 they are really targeted within the community so
19 that we're hiring individuals from that community
20 who can communicate in language and also
21 understand the individuals coming in culturally.

22 If you go to page 6, we do have a
23 language program. In each of those sites, we're
24 going to have what we call Language Assistance
25 Guides. And so someone can come in—a Language

1 Assistance Guide is a prototype of the Census
2 Form. Luckily it's only 10 questions this time,
3 but it just gives you an idea of the language. We
4 have up to 59 languages; not all of these are
5 prevalent in New York City but New York City being
6 as diverse as it is, there's always somebody
7 somewhere that probably speaks one of these
8 languages. So what happens is they come into a
9 Questionnaire Assistance Center. There will be
10 someone there who can give them a language guide
11 and help them read the questions and actually put
12 it down on the English form.
13

14 Questionnaires are also going to be
15 available upon request nationwide. When we mail
16 out the questionnaires beginning on March 15th, a
17 letter will come with that stating if you need a
18 questionnaire in another language you can call a
19 number and request a language to be mailed to you
20 with these particular languages; and it's Spanish,
21 Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian. Now
22 anybody else that needs help with their
23 questionnaire, that's the purpose of the
24 Questionnaire Assistance Centers, so they can go
25 to those sites to get help if it's not one of

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these languages.

We can go to the next side,
Yolanda. Okay. I want to talk about group
quarters. I understand the bill or the amendment
you're going to be talking about today. I just
want to explain what's on law right now in terms
of how the Census Bureau counts individuals and
what we call our group quarters. Now group
quarters are places like colleges and dormitories,
our homeless shelters, senior facilities, nursing
homes, military barracks, hospices and also
prisons. And we usually do this particular work
in the latter part of March, where we actually
send a census representative or census
representatives to the particular site that's
already been identify and we try to conduct the
enumeration there. Typically forms are given to
whoever the contact person is and they give it to
the individuals to actually fill the forms out and
then we collect it back from the individuals.

There are some sensitivities here.
We understand we have to be sensitive about things
like domestic violence shelters. We're working
with the City on that. We also realize there's

1
2 some sensitivities about our prisons and all kinds
3 of correctional facilities, meaning that they're
4 simply not going to let us go in to those
5 facilities to do that so we have to work with them
6 to figure out how we're going to actually do the
7 census, and we're working with the State of New
8 York right now to make a determination on how
9 we're going to go about that process.

10 I will tell you just for your
11 information, I met with the heads of the
12 correctional facilities for the State last week up
13 in Albany. I don't think the procedure is going
14 to change much from what we did in 2000 in terms
15 of how we're going to collect the information.

16 Now if we go to the next slide,
17 section 8, I just want to kind of read this to you
18 just so you can kind of hear it from me. The
19 Census Bureau resident will state that individuals
20 should be counted at their usual residence. So
21 the usual residence is customarily defined as the
22 place where the person lives or sleeps most of the
23 time. Now according to the concept of usual
24 residence, prisoners in correction facilities,
25 that's our jails, detention centers, are counted

1
2 at the correctional facility and the current plan
3 for the 2010 census, like the 2000 census and
4 previous censuses, is to tabulate prisoners at
5 their place of their incarceration. I understand
6 what you have on today on tap, but I do have to
7 quote to you what's on law right now. I will say
8 one thing, just so you're well aware, the
9 timeframe between now and when the questionnaires
10 get mailed out for all the operations is very,
11 very small. So wherever you go with this, I just
12 want you to realize this thing is very time
13 sensitive, but this is what's on record now and
14 how we have to proceed to count our prisoners.

15 So next slide. One of the things
16 that I'm very excited about that the Census is
17 going to do, we did it in 2000 but this is really--
18 when you look at it, the amount of dollars that
19 are appropriated to this, we had close to \$100
20 million for our national advertising campaign,
21 paid national advertising campaign in 2000. And
22 now we're just about to approach if we haven't
23 already eclipsed the \$300 million mark for a paid
24 media advertising program for the Census. This
25 program is going to begin in January, right around

1
2 January 15th of 2010.

3 I want to give you an idea of what
4 this program is like. It's really in three
5 phases. The first phase is the educational and
6 awareness phase. So what that means is that in
7 many languages and through all the mediums that
8 are available here in New York we're going to be
9 getting paid advertising that can be shown in
10 those mediums that people watch. We have paid
11 particular attention, for example, our communities
12 that are immigrant communities, communities of
13 color, all of the cultural communities, that where
14 there is media available that this program does
15 get within that community as well so that the
16 residents there are understanding and hearing the
17 Census message.

18 So during that point in time all
19 the way up through February you'll see a message
20 that talks about things like confidentiality of
21 the Census. It talks about why it's important,
22 the very things Stacey talked about earlier in her
23 presentation, and also a reminder that it's coming
24 in March 2010. Again you'll see also what I'm
25 excited about, they'll be utilizing trusted

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2 voices. You'll be seeing it on programs and
3 times, these aren't PSAs—these are program times,
4 what I call the high visible time periods when
5 everybody's watching and the contractor, which is
6 Draft FCB which won the national contract, they're
7 very cognizant of when each particular audience is
8 watching television. They're cognizant of how
9 this particular audience actually receives their
10 media; everybody doesn't receive media the same
11 way. And they're also cognizant of just which
12 ethnic groups have media available. There are
13 some groups that have a lot of media available and
14 then some of our emerging groups do not. They
15 might have newspapers and that's it; maybe they
16 don't have radio and television.

17 So if I can go to the next one.

18 This just gives you an idea of the languages that
19 the paid advertising program will be available in
20 so that you have that. I'm very happy to say that
21 it does represent New York quite well.

22 And then Yolanda if you would, if
23 we could just run through some slides here. One
24 of the things that Stacey mentioned that through
25 her opening of doors for us—and you can just kind

1
2 of run through those, Yolanda, briefly—this gives
3 you a snapshot of some of the things we've been
4 doing since May in terms of getting out into the
5 communities, into your communities, to promote the
6 Census. One of our big philosophies was that we
7 wanted to get individuals during the summer months
8 when a lot of cultural festivities were going on
9 so that we could in fact reach those individuals
10 that are not going to come to any meetings or
11 hearings about the Census. These are individuals
12 that work 12 hours a day. They don't understand
13 everything about the Census. If you give them a
14 piece of paper they're not necessarily going to
15 read it. What we do want to do is get something
16 in their hands so that they see that they've been
17 touched by the Census. We're hoping they'll see
18 more of the advertising as we get out to their
19 churches, get out to the neighborhoods and talk
20 about the census and through our trusted voices
21 that they'll know about this. They can actually
22 act as ambassadors by carrying something Census
23 around. But we're trying to not leave any stone
24 unturned. We're trying to reach our children, our
25 clergy.

1
2 Yolanda, you can go on to the next
3 slide. Anybody out there who we feel can get the
4 word out. So we've had great, what I would call
5 saturation into our communities. We're going to
6 continue to do that. It is colder now. A lot of
7 events are going indoors now. But what our motto
8 is with the Census is that if you have an
9 opportunity for us to come out to talk, we're
10 willing to do that. Let us know. If you don't
11 want us to talk but you're still willing to let us
12 be at your event, we are very happy. We are not
13 offended. If you let us just have a table space
14 and we can give out something to individuals as
15 they walk out the door. This has worked very
16 effectively for us so that we can get things and
17 folks hearing about the census. And we hope that
18 when we turn this advertising campaign on that
19 they're watching, they're hearing on the radio,
20 television. I just want to assure you that no
21 stone is going to be left unturned.

22 Some exciting things—the Medino
23 Media [phonetic] they're already building in the
24 Census into the Novellas. We're looking at some
25 of the programs—Tyler Perry, for example, has been

1
2 approached by the Census, he's looking at building
3 some things in. Our advertisers understand the
4 Black Diaspora, so we have African American,
5 Caribbean and African—we're targeting each of
6 those particular groups separately this time.
7 It's not an African-American approach this time.
8 So we're very excited about that. And I'll stop
9 at this point and if you have any questions I'm
10 available to answer.

11 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Thank you
12 very much. And there's a couple of questions that
13 I have and perhaps both of you can address that
14 issue. And I guess a local issue, because my
15 district was one of the districts that had some
16 problems, and it's also one of the districts—I
17 haven't seen you all yet taking the pictures, so
18 we're going to change all that. Because I have
19 not seen not one iota of a picture or involvement.
20 I'm going to change that, because I'm going to
21 work with you and we're going to make sure,
22 because if that's the case, we don't need to be at
23 one end of the Bronx and never come into another
24 end of the Bronx. And that's been the problem.
25 And then when you decide to have these offices,

1
2 that they're so far away. And I would say if the
3 problem is in the Northern part of the Bronx, then
4 put an office in the Northern part of the Bronx;
5 go where the problem is. And when you go where
6 the problem is you'll be able to solve the
7 problem. But there are people who—there's a large
8 immigrant population that cuts across all ethnic
9 groups in terms of immigration. But if there's
10 awareness—don't worry about space. We'll find you
11 space. We've got enough space up there that you
12 don't have to pay for space. We can give you as
13 much space as you want. We've got the community
14 board that has space up there. We'll get you
15 space. But we need to have resources that's put
16 into this to make this happen, and we will have
17 you at every even that's necessary to make sure
18 that that happens, because I'm disappointed that
19 we haven't gotten there; but I'm disappointed in
20 you all that we haven't had this meeting to pull
21 things together to make it happen. And we're
22 going to make it happen and we're going to have
23 the City as well as the Census, that we're going
24 to do what has to be done so that we can deal with
25 that count in the District. But you all have to

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2 show the effort that you're willing to do this as
3 well in terms of the resources. We have local
4 newspapers that haven't seen an advertisement in
5 our local newspapers yet.

6 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Part of the
7 strategy is the advertising—January and February
8 is really when all of that mass media is going to
9 hit. It's a little early in terms of the
10 advertising. Right now a lot of the activities
11 have been visibility, as Tony was saying, in terms
12 of going to parades and giving out t-shirts, the
13 Caribbean Day Parade—

14 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK:
15 [Interposing] We never got a t-shirt either. Go
16 ahead.

17 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: So right now a
18 lot of my work in my office in terms of working
19 with agencies or reaching out has been about
20 organizing organizations, resident leadership,
21 informing them first. And then come January is
22 when the posters, all of the more direct
23 communication to the mass public starts.

24 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: We'll we're
25 going to invite you up.

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STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Please do.

CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: And I'm
going to have every community group-

STACEY CUMBERBATCH: [Interposing]
Fantastic.

CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK:
[Interposing] Every church-

STACEY CUMBERBATCH: [Interposing]
Fantastic.

CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: --and
everybody so that you'll be able, the both of you,
so that level of participation that's going to
take place that we want it to happen, and we're
going to make it happen; because it has not
happened and it will not be on the part that we
didn't do our share to make that happen. So we're
going to put every effort to make sure. And I
would hope that there is some participation of
Black and Latinos as it relates to this media buy
and as it relates to the sharing of these \$300
million resources that's going to be put forward.

LESTER A. FARTHING: As mandated to
the contractor it has to be.

CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Okay.

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2 LESTER A. FARTHING: And what
3 they've done is they've looked at the share of the
4 funding, where the dollars are going, and the
5 dollars have to go to what we call national media,
6 but it also has to go to local media and then
7 beyond that layer, below that layer, they also
8 have to break it out into the various ethnic
9 groups. So they look very closely at what's going
10 to the Latino media, to the Asian media, to our
11 Black Diaspora media, which is a term I use.

12 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: And lastly
13 when you're bringing people and staff into those
14 areas, I would hope that you bring people that's
15 local that the people have a relationship that
16 they respect and that they would not have a
17 problem with opening up to and deciding to bring
18 someone from someplace else that the people have
19 no relationship—won't open the doors, won't do
20 anything. And I would hope that level of
21 sensitivity can be dealt with and we can have an
22 understanding about those people who are going and
23 doing a lot of this grunt work.

24 LESTER A. FARTHING: Absolutely.
25 Two things I will tell you. I want to make a

1
2 comment just about the offices first off. There
3 isn't a lot of control that I have over opening
4 offices. It's not based on opening up in a
5 community. The Census has to open an office in
6 every congressional district.

7 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Right.

8 LESTER A. FARTHING: So that's
9 what's mandated by law and what we have to do.
10 And after that it's turned over to GSA and they
11 have to find us a space. So I can never sit there
12 and promise an office to a community. I know many
13 communities have asked me and said that hey want
14 one in their community. Remember that that office
15 is a place just to deploy staff-

16 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK:

17 [Interposing] I understand.

18 LESTER A. FARTHING: --that are
19 going to be working and knocking on the doors in
20 April. Now by that earlier comment that you made,
21 is that when we hire we have to hire locally. So
22 anybody that's hired to knock on doors, for
23 example, I can't afford to pay for somebody to
24 come from another area.

25 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: All right.

1
2 LESTER A. FARTHING: We need people
3 hiring locally. Council Member Barron, in your
4 area, we need people. We're going to hire from
5 the East New York area, New Lots Avenue. It
6 doesn't pay to bring people in from outside. They
7 don't understand it; the work won't get done. And
8 we want to make sure that the people in that
9 neighborhood are getting—they're being hired and
10 the money is coming to those individuals.

11 I will tell you, Councilman, we
12 were at the Golden Krust anniversary—

13 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK:

14 [Interposing] I was there.

15 LESTER A. FARTHING: And I was
16 there with you. And I was one of the speakers,
17 and we've had other events up there. But as
18 Stacey said, you're going to see the real big
19 promotion coming in January. So I want to just
20 say from my standpoint too, we welcome your
21 involvement—

22 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK:

23 [Interposing] Well you'll get it.

24 LESTER A. FARTHING: We welcome
25 your calling us up. All you've got to do is fax

1
2 us, say you have an event, as everybody else does;
3 we have an event on this day, we need people up
4 here to talk about the Census. That's how we get
5 the word out during this, what we call awareness
6 phase. What I'm going to ask all of you though,
7 there's another important phase that we need you,
8 and that's when we do the motivation phase, which
9 starts in March. March is when the questionnaires
10 go out so our advertising messages change. It's
11 more about fill out the form and mail it back.
12 We're being very direct rather than trying to come
13 up with a fancy slogan for the public. We're
14 going to tell the public what to do and when to do
15 it. So your office, all of you in fact, with due
16 respect, you can be very helpful for us when you
17 know that there are opportunities or even out on
18 the street, when there are events that you are
19 having, where we can go and tell folks, hey, did
20 you fill the form out.

21 Now I mentioned earlier about
22 opening up Questionnaire Assistance Centers.
23 That's that vehicle for you to provide us with
24 some local space. We'll hire someone locally
25 that's taken our census test and that can work for

1
2 us. But you can also direct individuals to that
3 site and if they need help with their form they
4 can get help, and if they didn't get a form they
5 can also go to those sites. And I welcome any
6 site that you have that you can present to us so
7 that we can get them in and hopefully the site
8 that's donating the space is willing to do that.
9 And of course we need some good hours, I guess.

10 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: We will do
11 that. Again, and I'm closing, but my concern is
12 that what happens is that these other facilities
13 that will be put—they will be by a bunch of greedy
14 landlords who they will make their contracts - -
15 less than if any people were every counted
16 anywhere in our community and that's my concern—of
17 where we would put resources paying those
18 individuals who could care less, absentee and
19 everything else. But we will get you the space in
20 which you need. I will make every effort to make
21 sure that you will have that available to you free
22 of charge.

23 LESTER A. FARTHING: Great, great.

24 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: We will not
25 be listed in that manner ever again.

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2 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: So one thing
3 that's going to be different this time in the
4 Census that I want to point out is that for the
5 first time the Census Bureau, probably starting
6 the end of March is going to make available what
7 the mail-in response rate is at that time, not in
8 real time but almost in real time. So before the
9 due date of those forms coming back, we are going
10 to have up online and know what areas are not
11 mailing back as quickly as they need, so we can
12 get into action in those areas in time to
13 encourage people to fill out the form and mail
14 that. We didn't have that in 2000, so that's
15 huge.

16 LESTER A. FARTHING: Well also,
17 Council Member if I can just—one thing I failed to
18 mention, it's very important. One of the things
19 we didn't have also in 2000 was when the Census
20 takers were going out to knock on doors, we had no
21 advertisement at all. It just kind of happened.
22 Now luckily we had a good partnership program out
23 in the fields and folks kind of knew about the
24 Census, but we'll now have advertisement, national
25 and paid advertisement telling folks well, if you

1
2 didn't mail the form back you can expect a visit
3 from our Census taker, please cooperate with them.
4 So that's something good as well. You know, the
5 Census is being done in two parts, meaning we're
6 looking at the mail-out, mail-back process.
7 That's what we're trying to increase, because your
8 census is done better when individuals in their
9 own timeframe, they fill the form out and put down
10 everybody on the form. You can imagine we have
11 success going out and knocking on doors now, but
12 there's never a good time, it's always rushed, and
13 that's when I think we miss people because they
14 don't put down everybody because they just kind of
15 want to get this over with. We get the
16 cooperation but it isn't the full cooperation we
17 really need in terms of what gets on that form.

18 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Thank you
19 very much, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Yeah. Before
21 I call on some of the members to ask questions, I
22 just have one--well first let me recognize that we
23 have been joined by Council Member Michael Nelson.
24 I have one question and that is, you just spoke
25 about the return of the forms. In terms of

1
2 correction, what is in place for correction?
3 Someone may have filled out a form and they may
4 have left out someone or may have left out some
5 information. What do you have in place for that
6 correct?

7 LESTER A. FARTHING: Typically,
8 that's why we try to give out good instruction in
9 the beginning. Meaning—some of it folks read it
10 and we ask them to fill out the names of everybody
11 living or staying at their home. We really have
12 no way of knowing if somebody forgot to put
13 somebody on the form. However, if somebody comes
14 forward and say, I didn't get on the form—there's
15 a lot of folks, single Black males especially,
16 they may live someplace and sometimes you don't
17 know who is going to put them on the form. They
18 live in, if I can speak very frankly, we don't
19 know who is going to put them on the form
20 sometimes, and so the whole idea is once we can
21 reach them if they can say I didn't get counted, I
22 know somebody didn't put me on the form, that's
23 where our Be Counted sites come in. We can direct
24 them to a Be Counted site and they can fill out
25 their own form, they can put their address on it.

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2 When it comes into the Census Bureau all we do is
3 look to see, is it the same address, yes? Is this
4 a different name? Yes. Then it gets added.

5 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: In terms of
6 that, are you saying that if a form has been
7 filled out and five people have been listed and
8 they just omit one name and they want to correct
9 that thereafter, they can just call and have that
10 correction?

11 LESTER A. FARTHING: They can't
12 call to have the correction. What they would do
13 is get a Be Counted form and submit it.

14 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right.
15 At this time I would call on Council Member
16 Ferreras. Gentlemen, I'm calling in order of how
17 you requested questions. Council Member Ferreras.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I'm over
19 here. Good afternoon. I have two questions, and
20 actually a comment. You guys have done a great
21 job in my district in particular, because three of
22 your pictures were in my district in Queens, the
23 Dominican—he has to find your pictures—the
24 Dominican Parade, the Ecuadorian Parade and the
25 Columbian Parade are all within my district and I

1 think they're all within weeks of each other.
2
3 However, my question is in particular, I am the
4 only the first Latina elected in the Borough of
5 Queens, one of our biggest issues for Latinos is
6 race. Question number 6, I believe. I help
7 people fill out the citizenship form. I've gotten
8 into it with constituents to the point where
9 they'll leave it blank because they don't know how
10 to answer the question. What is the Census Bureau
11 doing to educate? Because, you know, you have
12 instructions with the questions and we can do as
13 much awareness as we can, but what is it that
14 you're looking—or what is it that you're doing in
15 this case?

16 LESTER A. FARTHING: That's where
17 the trusted voices and partners and the
18 partnership program come in. What we do is we go
19 out to meetings. We talk with our trusted voices.
20 We talk with our leadership. It's a very complex
21 issue when it comes to our Latino communities. I
22 always say that this thing about race is a very
23 American thing and it's not something for someone
24 that comes from another country. It's an issue we
25 face even with our Black Diaspora, especially from

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2 Africa and from the Caribbean. What we've always
3 told individuals, that it's important especially
4 for voting rights issues, we want to get you
5 counted. We hope that you'll fill out something
6 in the race category, whatever you feel and how
7 you feel that you're represented. You also have
8 another area where you can mark as you're able to
9 mark more than one race. You can actually mark in
10 the box where it says other how you describe
11 yourself. We know right now a lot of folks from
12 the Caribbean will want to do that. They don't
13 see themselves listed there and they want to put
14 down who they are.

15 For a lot of the Latino groups
16 there's a lot of boxes to check off on for the
17 Latino groups. But if there's still someone who
18 feels they're not represented on there, someone
19 who is from Panama for example, so they can
20 actually write in in that other category.
21 Typically when we go out to service providers who
22 serve that particular group or folks that are from
23 that particular area, we try to communicate that
24 to them that way and hopefully they can get the
25 message out.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: My other
3 question is when it comes to the accuracy of
4 address, I know that you already started doing
5 that. One of the issues that I have in my
6 community is they've taken down one-family homes,
7 put up multi-dwellings; new addresses, what used
8 to be one door is now four doors. Are you in the
9 middle of that? Is it over and what is the
10 accuracy? Where are we with that campaign?

11 LESTER A. FARTHING: We have
12 completed our work out in the field for the most
13 part, going about knocking on doors, checking
14 addresses. And I don't know if you're aware but
15 in the slide I showed, in April and May of 2009 we
16 hired staff locally to go out and actually using
17 this little handheld computer, we had addresses
18 that we loaded in to our database, which we call
19 our master address file, we had addresses loaded
20 in also from the post office; we use their
21 delivery sequence file, that's the most recent;
22 plus, which is the biggest effort, we worked with
23 New York City, the Office of Population, and we've
24 had them—actually they've been sworn in to look at
25 our address list, where they can't divulge it to

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2 anyone else, but to look at it for accuracy and
3 actually tell us where we needed to add on more
4 information based on their records. So those very
5 types of places that you're talking about are very
6 problematic for us. Many times there's one
7 mailbox, but you know--there's one mailbox and
8 three doorbells, or there's one mailbox and one
9 doorbell--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS:

11 [Interposing] And eight doorbells.

12 LESTER A. FARTHING: --yeah. You
13 know that there's many people living there. We've
14 created procedures, they're actually New York-
15 based procedures to actually help our numerators
16 when they were going around checking addresses and
17 verifying. So we hope we've done the best job we
18 can with what is visible. When we knock on the
19 doors and even ask, you know, how many units are
20 here, you know, everyone is not going to be
21 truthful with us. So it's a combination of what
22 we get from New York City that even we can't
23 verify, we don't necessarily throw that away; what
24 we get trying to do a face-to-face communication,
25 will you tell us really what's here; and then we

1
2 also have what's we call, again, the Be Counted
3 program, because we know we might miss some
4 individuals. So we want to make sure that we're
5 stressing this program. Typically we try to
6 stress that at the end of March, meaning that if
7 you didn't get a form by now, please go to one of
8 our Questionnaire Assistance Centers, get the form
9 and fill it out for your family.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Okay.

11 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Am I on? Oh,
12 I'm on now. That issue about, you know, is it a
13 one-family and you have eight families living
14 there, that's probably the biggest challenge for
15 New York City across the City. The reality is, is
16 there are a lot of housing units where it's not
17 visible; it looks like a one-family but we know
18 five-families live there, but they're only going
19 to get one form—

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS:

21 [Interposing] Right.

22 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: --because it's
23 showing up on the records as a one-family house.
24 You know, it's not Apartment 1, 2, 3, 4. So part
25 of the challenge of outreach, also overcoming the

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2 barriers of language, fear, etcetera, is this
3 issue to get people to pick up a form at a Be
4 Counted Site. Because we know a lot of households
5 are only going to get one form, but there's like
6 four families living there. So the other three
7 families would to be added on that form
8 necessarily by that one family. So that's going
9 to be a huge drive for us to get that message out
10 collectively, because that's probably the biggest
11 challenge and where we get an undercount here in
12 New York City because of that phenomenon.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Okay.

14 Well I'm very lucky to be able to have some
15 community space that I offer in my office.

16 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Great.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: And I'd
18 like to open my doors in particular, because we
19 get a lot of visits from the community on a whole
20 host of issues, but I would love to be able to
21 partner with your office and get that done in our
22 area. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Our next
24 questioner is Council Member Barron.

25 [Pause]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
3 very much, Mr. Chairs. By the way, don't mention
4 the Mayor too much, because after we finish
5 counting them, he's not going to service them. So
6 you've all got to help us after the count to get
7 him to do something.

8 Micro—I think we're going to be all
9 right in East New York, James Tillman [phonetic]
10 is doing some great work in that area. We met
11 last night as a matter of fact, a community
12 planning board, and we're really going to, you
13 know, put it out there. So I think we're going to
14 do better there. So on the micro level I have
15 concerns like everybody else, but not as much
16 because I think we're really going to kick it out.
17 But on the macro level, certain things that I'm
18 concerned about, first of all the identity of
19 African people, of Black people. We're not non-
20 Hispanics. I resent that, not that I have
21 anything with my Latino brothers, but don't
22 identify us as a Non. We are African people. And
23 I know that there are Latino people of African
24 ancestry, but then you just list them as Latino.
25 You don't—you know, if you say this is the Latino,

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2 or you all call it Hispanic, I think Latino myself
3 is more progressive. But if you're going to list
4 them as, if there is a Latino population, whether
5 they're Black or White or African, they're Latino.
6 We are not Non-Hispanics. And I resent that. So,
7 you know, you all need to do something about that.
8 We are African people. If you can't handle that,
9 then we're all Black or something, but we're not a
10 Non. Don't identify us as a Non. Go.

11 LESTER A. FARTHING: Well, the
12 forms are—that's a tough question, Council Member.
13 The forms are already created. That's a big
14 discussion that I would tell you that happens
15 probably in the beginning of the decade. Those
16 particular issues about the race question, and
17 they've been going on for quite a while, they're
18 really done in the early part—because this doesn't
19 just go through the Census Bureau, it's through
20 Congress and everyone else that has to approve
21 what the racial categories are, because they try
22 to stay consistent with all Federal government
23 agencies. So the Census Bureau can't just go off
24 and change a race category.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well I know

1
2 all of that stuff, but we need to—you all need to
3 say something about it. I know it happened
4 whenever it happened, but we're just not Non-
5 people. We are a something. We are somebody. We
6 ain't Non. Secondly, and I think there were 6.4
7 million that were missed and 3.1 million that were
8 counted twice, over counted. I read an article
9 years ago in that—what's the ethnic breakdown of
10 that category? Because my understanding is that
11 Whites are being—we'll never catch up the White
12 folk in the count if you all keep counting them
13 twice and missing up. And we're trying to catch
14 up. You know, it's already 300 and some-odd
15 million people here. But we're trying to catch
16 up, but you can't count them twice. Larry, we'll
17 never catch up like this, man. You all help me
18 with that one. Who is being missed and who is
19 being counted twice?

20 LESTER A. FARTHING: I can tell you
21 why that happens. Who is being counted twice is
22 the easiest. It is our Caucasian population and
23 the reason being is that most of them—

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:

25 [Interposing] You all thought was joking. See?

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2 LESTER A. FARTHING: No, I do have
3 some information for you on that.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay.

5 LESTER A. FARTHING: It is because
6 of two things, number one, many of them have two
7 homes or more than one home, in fact, and they get
8 the form and they just fill it out, and that's one
9 of the reasons that—and some of them live maybe
10 half the time in one place and half the time in
11 the other place and they can't make up their mind
12 where they want to fill the form out.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well where
14 is their usual residence?

15 LESTER A. FARTHING: Well that's
16 the problem. Some of them live like six months in
17 one part and six months in another; some of them
18 will just fill it out no matter what, because they
19 just want to have that happen. The other problem
20 is that parents that—even though it's on the form,
21 we've tried to have clearer information on that
22 form—but a lot of time they actually count their
23 children in the universities and colleges that are
24 living away.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Exactly,

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exactly.

LESTER A. FARTHING: And so we've had better messaging this time on the form so that people understand. It wasn't that clear in 2000. It's much clearer now.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So if we do the same thing we'll get counted twice?

LESTER A. FARTHING: Right, exactly. We want you to only count--well, you don't want to do that, but we want then to actually just put down where that person is living and if your child is at a college, living in a college dorm, they are being counted at that dorm, so we put that information on there. Now the group that is being undercounted the most is our minority populations.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Exactly.

LESTER A. FARTHING: As it stands right now, just so you know, the American Indian and Alaskan Native population, they have the highest undercount. Next it's probably neck and neck with Latino and the Black Diaspora, and I'm going to use that very carefully.

One thing that I do want to say

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2 that's very interesting that we found out in the
3 last Census, in the Black Diaspora we found that
4 many folks are from the Caribbean. We didn't have
5 clear messaging about how to participate in the
6 Census, meaning when the numerators are coming to
7 your door, the importance of filling the form out,
8 mailing it back so that you don't have a numerator
9 come to your door. Well we knocked on a lot of
10 doors and our Caribbean neighborhoods, especially
11 places like Flatbush and Councilman Seabrook up in
12 your area, Southeast Queens, a lot of folks had
13 the form filled out. They were waiting for a
14 census taker to come by and pick it up. So we've
15 had to get clearer information out to everyone.
16 That's why you'll see our messaging is going to be
17 more direct about fill the form out and mail it
18 back. On our site conversations are telling
19 folks, you know, we don't want to have to send a
20 census taker to your door and if you don't want
21 one, all you have to do is fill the form out and
22 mail it back.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And on the
24 thing related to the usual quarters, if a college
25 student, if an African American college student is

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2 away at college, they're counted at that college
3 and for that county?

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LESTER A. FARTHING: Yes. Now it
5 also depends; it also depends. Two things will
6 happen. If they're staying on the university
7 dormitory for example, yes, we're going to count
8 them at the dormitory. And that's what we have on
9 the census form as well, that we're going to count
10 your children staying away at college at the dorm.
11 If they're living on off-campus housing—excuse me,
12 not off-campus housing but an apartment that
13 they're renting off-campus, that's very different;
14 we're going to count them at their apartment
15 because the Census is being done, as you look on
16 the form, the reference date is where were you
17 living as of April 1st, 2010.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: But I don't
19 understand that. Because see, you can't say, you
20 know, at this University that person is a
21 resident. There is no—what community benefits
22 from that? Because it's not like you're just
23 going to say, you may count them at the dormitory,
24 but does that county get that count?

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LESTER A. FARTHING: Yes, they do.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Right. So
3 you're counting them at the dormitory, so it
4 really doesn't matter whether they're off campus
5 or on campus, because that county is going to get
6 that count.

7 LESTER A. FARTHING: Right, right.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And therein
9 lies the problem, because see, and that's what
10 some of our legislation is trying to address. And
11 I don't see, why can't they just say I'm here away
12 at college, but this is where I live? Because see
13 what happens is, right, especially as much as they
14 put us in jail, man they're really benefiting with
15 our people being incarcerated. So the county of
16 Dannemora, which is Clinton Prison now, wouldn't
17 be no town if it wasn't for the prison population
18 coming from down here. So now first you
19 incarcerate us, then you're going to now count us
20 for you, so I mean, they're encouraging
21 incarceration because it's to their benefit to
22 have jails up there and having us filling them
23 from down here. So we get depopulated, they get
24 over-populated and they get more resources than
25 what they deserve. Something has to happen with

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2 that and it can't be just us, you know, screaming
3 and just say, well that's how it is, that's how
4 the form is. You all got to something inside.
5 You've all got to fight inside. It can't be just
6 us, you know, trying to do some legislation, oh,
7 we might get it this time but the clock is moving.
8 Because, see, we don't have time for that. We
9 don't have time to wait for our slow legislative
10 process. If you all are in there, then you all
11 need to be rumbling and making something happen
12 inside to stop that nonsense. Because I know this
13 place, when they want to change stuff they can
14 change it overnight if the will was there. When
15 they don't want to do it, then we have a process,
16 we may not be able to get it this year, but you
17 know, keep working on it maybe we'll have it for
18 next year. Come on now.

19 LESTER A. FARTHING: Unfortunately
20 I'm not at that level—

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:
22 [Interposing] Well get on it. You know the people
23 up there.

24 LESTER A. FARTHING: Well, I do.
25 You might know them better than I do and your

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voice might be stronger than mine.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well I'm going to scream, but I need you screaming inside. Want me to help you?

LESTER A. FARTHING: Well I can tell you-

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:
[Interposing] I've got some ideas for you.

LESTER A. FARTHING: What I can tell you, and especially from New York alone, the very things that you're saying has come down to Washington. Members of Congress have heard this. So at some point, you know, like I said, at my level versus someone in Congress, you know, it does have to go through a congressional process to the Hill. But I do want to assure you that you're not saying anything that we don't know about and that there have been other folks, other than myself, that have come representing New York City. So the concern is there.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: All right.
Good.

LESTER A. FARTHING: And I can't tell you, right now as you now I can only speak to

1
2 you what the law is now, what guidance they've
3 given me to conduct the Census. But the voices
4 have been heard about it. In terms of the action
5 that goes on, you know like I said I really can't
6 speak for that.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And finally
8 I don't know how we do this one, I notice that you
9 listed in the 59 languages that Swahili was in the
10 59 languages and there's a lot of African
11 immigrants and African, you know, people that need
12 to be counted, but when it comes to the paid
13 advertisement, of the 28 languages, then it's no
14 longer listed.

15 LESTER A. FARTHING: One of them is
16 French, and the other is—we're going to do—we're
17 not ignoring that, so I want to say that first of
18 all. It's going to be done in French and in
19 probably English—

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: There's
21 Franco-Africa and Anglo-Africa—

22 LESTER A. FARTHING: [Interposing]
23 Yeah. Now it's going to be done, keep in mind—

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:
25 [Interposing] Swahili cuts through a lot of all of

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that, you know.

LESTER A. FARTHING: Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I mean whether it's Franco, Anglo-Africa, Swahili cuts through a lot of that and it's more of a common language than even French and English.

LESTER A. FARTHING: We were concerned about the languages that are better spoken than written, and this advertising campaign is both written components as well as spoken components. The contractor is really going to stick with doing things in French, especially to reach our West Africans, and English. And we're going to actually work with the various media that they'll be contacting. And if they want to do what we call added value of some additional things in languages outside, you know they're free to do that and I think that's what's been encouraged. But I'm just happy that for the first time we're actually going to have a component to reach those particular groups through the medium that's available. Keep in mind too in 2000 we had media, but we didn't have as much media available to reach many of our ethnic groups as we do now, so

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2 it's a very—it's a terrific and golden opportunity
3 and I can tell you that our contractors understand
4 New York City quite well. They're actually—many
5 of them are from New York; they understand New
6 York quite well and they understand the vast
7 diversity that is here, so they're trying to make
8 sue the media is attacking that.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
10 very much.

11 LESTER A. FARTHING: My pleasure.

12 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: We have been
13 joined by Council Member David Weprin. I have one
14 question, we'll let's see two question, before I
15 call on Council Member Mealy.

16 [Pause]

17 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right,
18 Council Member Mealy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Good
20 afternoon. I have brief questions. And I just
21 want to say, you're doing a brief job, but you
22 need to come a little bit more in Brooklyn, and I
23 really appreciate that it's only down to one page,
24 ten questions. That helps tremendously. But
25 could you tell me, what advertisement, what local

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papers will you be advertising in?

LESTER A. FARTHING: I'm not able to do that yet because some stuff is still under contract with the contractor—it's a negotiation. What they do know, we're going to do national, then we're going to do local. Local is even some of what we call community ethnic newspapers as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: See, a lot of people say that and then when it comes out, Amsterdam News, all the local papers, will never be involved.

LESTER A. FARTHING: Okay. Like I said, I can't really go into great detail about the contract because they're negotiating right now. They know about the papers you're talking about. This is a different contractor than before. They understand. I'm on part of the committee—

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY:
[Interposing] Okay, that's good to hear.

LESTER A. FARTHING: --I'm representing New York, so they understand these papers and they understand which ones better not

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be left out.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you. Chairman Seabrook, I will be watching that very closely. And I just want to ask you, on this number 7, does this person sometimes live or stay somewhere else. And you have in jail or in prison. So you think that's appropriate to put in, where someone just lives in prison? Aren't we trying to uplift people and not—we know that people do be incarcerated, but I don't feel that it should be on this questionnaire. Have you all really thought about that?

LESTER A. FARTHING: Well keep in mind that everyone nationally is looking at this from all levels of the government, congress, and the questionnaires that are on here are what's been approved by our Congressional body.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Well I think we should definitely change that, because if you're not going to count these people where they're living, if they live in Brooklyn and then they just happen to six months go upstate to jail and you're counting them upstate and not in Brooklyn, what's the sense of having in jail if

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2 you live there sometimes? And that's not a resort
3 place to live, that's not a second home.

4 LESTER A. FARTHING: No, I
5 understand. I understand.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: So I hope
7 that you all really, and I will ask congress about
8 this also. And I want to just ask you one more
9 question. What are you doing in regards to your—I
10 know our congress people are saying that they want
11 the census to be separate from Caribbean. Is that
12 in the Congress right now or are you all going to
13 lay that over to about ten years later? And will
14 you be addressing where Caribbean people want to
15 be counted different or have—

16 LESTER A. FARTHING: [Interposing]
17 They want to be listed on the form.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes. Could
19 you explain that?

20 LESTER A. FARTHING: Yes. And I
21 can explain where we are with it. A little
22 unfortunate; I would have liked to have seen that
23 as well since I have the largest Caribbean
24 population to count in the country. Unfortunately
25 the timing of when all that started to really

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2 become rising up and getting to the ears of
3 everyone that needs to see it, it was a little too
4 late.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Too late.

6 LESTER A. FARTHING: Now all of
7 those folks that have been involved in those
8 processes, I've mentioned that to them; I do know
9 that right after the Census they're going to be
10 very ready to start work. But keep in mind that
11 the racial designations, a lot of what's on the
12 census forms, there are a lot of categories that
13 are used across all federal governmental agencies,
14 so they don't just swap in and swap out races just
15 for one activity, because we use this data across
16 all government entities and everything else. So
17 when it does happen, there's a formal process to
18 have it happen so that all the other government
19 agencies that use the data can actually use it and
20 apply it where they need to apply it.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Do you think
22 it's appropriate to have it on there?

23 LESTER A. FARTHING: I'm going to
24 be a little—I'm going to say this very carefully.
25 Again, I have to count one of the largest African

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and Caribbean populations in the country and I-

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY:

[Interposing] Well can I readdress it?

LESTER A. FARTHING: And I use, and again, I don't even use the term African American freely. I use the term Black Diaspora and then I explain who I'm talking to. I couldn't even use that in this room, because all of us aren't African American.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Right.

LESTER A. FARTHING: So my answer, I hope you'll see, is yes, I would love to see that.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: So you really feel it would make a difference if it-

LESTER A. FARTHING: [Interposing] Well I think I've gone on record, they know in Washington I would have loved to have seen it. But gain, this is a national activity, it's not a local, you know, just a New York-based activity. But again, we know and I know that our congressional body has heard it. Our Washington offices have heard it. So this is not something that is just news. It's just a matter of the

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2 timing. You know, census forms have been printed
3 already. So, you know, it's unfortunate.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just want
5 to apologize. I have a Committee hearing over at
6 City hall.

7 LESTER A. FARTHING: Thank you for
8 coming.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I wanted to
10 stay the whole time, but I will be following up.

11 LESTER A. FARTHING: All right.
12 Pleasure.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: But thank
14 you so much.

15 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right.
16 Let me continue. I want to go back to a question
17 just for clarity in terms of your addresses,
18 because this is a personal interest that I have in
19 this. When you have an address, when you have a
20 building that has maybe multiple addresses, how do
21 discern that? How do you really correct that?
22 Because I know of a number of buildings in New
23 York City, if it's a corner building it may have
24 one address for one street and another address for
25 another street. How do you deal with that? It's

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2 the same building but just multiple addresses.

3 LESTER A. FARTHING: We're pretty
4 much covered for that process. Typically, you
5 know, when enumerators are instructed in their
6 procedures, remember, we use multiple sources to
7 create our address list. So we're hoping that at
8 some point in time that either New York City is
9 going to give us that information, the post office
10 delivery sequence file, or we've already picked
11 that up from other operations we've done. If not,
12 our enumerators when they went out in April and
13 March, they were instructed to walk—they have to
14 walk along the street, and they have a little
15 device, a little map that lists all the housing
16 units that we have and addresses. And if they see
17 anything that's missing they're supposed to add
18 it, but they first inquire at the residence to
19 find out, okay, what is the exact address of this
20 building. So, that's how we go about doing that.
21 And then as Deluca [phonetic] processes and we
22 find something that was missed, New York City can
23 actually appeal that and they can come back to us
24 and say we think this address was missed and it
25 should be in here, and we go ahead and we can put

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2 that into our system if we feel it does exist and
3 we will get them counted that way. We might have
4 to go back and do a personal visit; it won't be in
5 the mail out.

6 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: I'm concerned
7 about the double counting. If you have an address
8 and let's say you have 1746 Nostrand Avenue, which
9 is the same as 2915 Clarendon Road, but someone
10 fill it out, because you mailed out the form 1746,
11 and they filled it out, people who live there, it
12 comes in to you. Then you send out another form
13 at 2915 Clarendon Road and they fill out that form
14 and they send it back, how would you pick that up
15 that it's a double billing?

16 LESTER A. FARTHING: We're going to
17 have to do, as I told you earlier, after the
18 Census, after we do the count of enumerators going
19 out we have follow up operations, if that address
20 comes in and let's say that address, you said that
21 somebody put a different address in that we don't
22 have in our address file, we have to then go and
23 have somebody out and research to find out, okay,
24 does this address really exist or what is the
25 issue. We're going to look at two things. We're

1
2 going to look at, do we have the same people
3 listed for two addresses. We have a mechanism to
4 do that as well. We look at neighboring houses
5 and things like that. So do we have the same
6 people listed for this same address, and if so
7 then it has to be part of our follow up and we go
8 back out to make a determination, is this a double
9 count or not. So that's somebody going back out
10 again and checking.

11 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Council
12 Member Jackson?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chair. I have a question. I wanted to go
15 back to the race issue that was raised by our
16 colleague. And I don't know if I got a very clear
17 answer, I guess, from the officials, from you.
18 Because the District that I represent in Northern
19 Manhattan is District 7, and based on the 2000
20 census was 50% Latino, 32% Black, 14% White, about
21 2% Asian. So in communicating with my
22 constituents, and many of the Latinos—the largest
23 are Dominicans. And as you know, there's
24 Dominicans from all shades from White White to
25 Black Black. As officials of the census, both

1
2 City and US Government, how do Dominicans identify
3 themselves when it comes to that race? You must
4 have been asked that question a million times, and
5 so what is the answer? How do you respond to
6 that?

7 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: It's a
8 question raised by a lot of groups when I go out,
9 have gone out to speak, not just the Dominican
10 community, every community has raised this issue.
11 And it's all about self-identification. So it's
12 how one identifies themselves and do you see that
13 identification on the form. Now the form does not
14 have everyone's identification on it.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay.

16 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: So, let me
17 just finish, so some people, for example the
18 Caribbean community, Caribbean is not listed on
19 the form. So there is a box for people to put in
20 and write in Caribbean, and they can check off
21 other boxes as well. So I can't dictate and say
22 to someone this is what you should put on a form,
23 because it's about how people self-identify.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: But is
25 Caribbean race?

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2 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: No, it's
3 ethnicity.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay.
5 Yeah, right. I'm just saying.

6 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Right.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: But we
8 were talking about race though.

9 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: But it's all
10 about how people identify themselves.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay.

12 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: So some people
13 may not identify themselves by a racial category.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay, so
15 fine. With regards to question number 5, okay, it
16 says race.

17 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Right.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: What if I
19 leave that blank? Are you, the Census Bureau,
20 going to contact me to help me self-identify
21 myself as to race or are you just going to accept
22 it as it is?

23 LESTER A. FARTHING: We actually
24 have two processes that we do. One of those
25 processes—you know, Councilman, what we really try

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to do is to do the up front instead of—

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON:

[Interposing] No, I understand.

LESTER A. FARTHING: --the other

way. And so what happens is that it is self-

identification, but we try to explain to everybody

that if you can't identify yourself in the race

question, you do have box to put other race,

meaning that's the box where you can identify

yourself.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay, so I

put Dominican.

LESTER A. FARTHING: Right. So

that's—

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON:

[Interposing] Dominican is not a race.

LESTER A. FARTHING: But it gets

listed in the Other Race category with the Census

Bureau.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: But it's

not a race.

LESTER A. FARTHING: That's

correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: But it's

1
2 listed in the Other Race Category, even though
3 it's not a race.

4 LESTER A. FARTHING: That's
5 correct. And that's how the Census Bureau accepts
6 it. You have to keep in mind—

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON:
8 [Interposing] That's the best answer that you can
9 give.

10 LESTER A. FARTHING: Well you have
11 to keep in mind, race is—when you're talking about
12 individuals from other countries that don't
13 understand what the race question is, I'm happy
14 that we have an Other Race category instead of
15 trying to pigeonhole everybody into that category.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay.

17 LESTER A. FARTHING: So they do
18 have a way to identify it, to self-identify
19 themselves. Some of them, you know, when they
20 look at the category they say, I am nothing that's
21 listed here, so that's why we have the Other Race
22 category, that was brought in in 2000. Same thing
23 for the Caribbean community; we want to count
24 people. We want them to feel included.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay.

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2 LESTER A. FARTHING: So if they
3 can't identify themselves in the race—

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON:
5 [Interposing] So what if I left all of that blank,
6 the 5 and 6 blank, are you going to be knocking on
7 my door and saying, listen, you didn't put the 5
8 and 6 or 7—I mean 5 or 6?

9 LESTER A. FARTHING: If it is
10 blank, what the Census Bureau will do, if there
11 is, if somebody actually put a phone number on
12 there we could contact them, they might do a call
13 from our call-in center as part of our follow-up
14 on the forms.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay.

16 LESTER A. FARTHING: If not, then
17 what happens is based on the community from where
18 the form is collected they will then, we use—it's
19 like a statistical sample, they're part the
20 statistical sample with the majority of the people
21 that are there.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I see.

23 LESTER A. FARTHING: So that's why
24 it's important to fill that out.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay. And

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2 regards to number—to discuss earlier. It says, as
3 of April 1st, where are you residing, I think the
4 date is. Right? So Council Member Barron was
5 talking about earlier in the response and the
6 dialogue was about sometimes, you know, there's
7 double counting. You know. And so knowing that,
8 one of the resolutions is that prisoners should be
9 counted where they resided prior to incarceration.
10 And also, as a City Council Member I want every
11 one in my district to be counted so that resources
12 can be provided. So if I have three kids in
13 college, I'm not putting that they're going to
14 University of Buffalo. I'm going to say that they
15 live at 499 Fort Washington Avenue on April 1st.
16 So, even though it says where do you live on April
17 1st. So I don't want to say—put down wherever
18 you're living on April 1st and if you have three
19 kids in college, Oswego, Buffalo, or Potsdam,
20 that's where they have to fill out the census.
21 I'm not going to tell my people that. I'm going
22 to tell them put down where they live at, where if
23 your parents are paying taxes for your and
24 registering you there and you're registered to
25 vote there, that's where I'm going to put down.

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2 So if I put down my three kids, for example that
3 live in New York City even though they're upstate
4 in college, okay, and I fill out everything else,
5 is the Census Bureau going to come and check?

6 LESTER A. FARTHING: Well we really
7 wouldn't know. I mean there's no resource to go
8 back and check to see who didn't fill-

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON:
10 [Interposing] Right. So you answered my question.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Thank you
13 very much. Just one other question because we're
14 going to always have a problem with question
15 number 5 and number 6, because it's an illusion
16 and it's not real, so we're going to always have
17 an argument because there's no such thing as race
18 and so when we get caught up in it-and it's
19 crystal clear that if we're saying their race is
20 Black and then we've got African Americans and
21 then we've got Negro, but we've got a question of
22 race as White and we don't have no other subtopics
23 of that, then it ain't real. So this is a social
24 construct that you can't change here. I
25 understand that. But this is the most bogus thing

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2 that we are dealing with, and that's what this is
3 all about, because it's not real at all. It's
4 created; it's an American creation. And so when
5 we understand that, we'll know how to deal with
6 it. But the most important thing is counting
7 bodies. That's most important, because we
8 understand the other, the bogus part of 5 and 6.
9 It ain't real.

10 LESTER A. FARTHING: Yes.

11 Councilman, if I can add though, something that's
12 very important, you know, for your voting, the
13 Census statistics are vital for voting district
14 rights as well. So right now, just so that you're
15 all aware, the categories that are there are the
16 categories by which voting rights are actually
17 monitored and enforced.

18 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Right. But
19 that's again the—and to allow the perpetuation of
20 Whiteness and power to Whiteness, because you can
21 have somebody as dark as me put White down because
22 White is on some people's birth certificates that
23 came to American that is as dark as I am. So I
24 understand that whole dynamic. And that's to
25 allow the lack of representation on a true number

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2 that's counted. But when we get caught up in an
3 argument like this, especially when you don't see
4 a subtitle of White, then you know it's a bogus
5 argument, because if there are subtitles in Black,
6 there have to be subtitles in White. Because
7 everybody who is considered White today wasn't
8 White 50 years ago. So we need to understand the
9 history of how they got to become White in
10 American. And so when we understand that bogus
11 argument and its creation and what it was and what
12 Whiteness meant in American and who was classified
13 as white—everybody that came here wasn't
14 classified as White when they first came here. So
15 it took them a time to become White in America.
16 And so when we look at the history, Italians were
17 not White. Jews were not White. Irish were not
18 White when they came to America and then later in
19 terms of that, when Congress and the Supreme Court
20 made a decision as to who was going to be White in
21 the history of this country and how Whiteness
22 became, but they were not considered. And so when
23 we look at that and we see this means of keeping
24 and maintaining power, and you're right, that's
25 how congressional districts and reapportionment is

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2 done. And remember, reapportionment was also done
3 when they classified me as 3/5ths and counted me
4 as that. And so when I was counted as that it was
5 based on the Census that was given so there would
6 be less representation in terms of people. But I
7 understand the argument and I know what it is and
8 I know how we get caught trying to chase something
9 that's not real. It's an illusion and you'll
10 never, ever catch it, and so we'll get caught up
11 in it until this country recognizes that there's
12 no such thing as race and then deal with it. But
13 this country's not ready for that yet, because it
14 operates with race, because it's a social
15 construct by America's way. So, anyway.

16 There's a question—what happens to
17 people who same sex marriage is recognized in
18 other states and they come to New York, and then
19 when they are counted and then they are in and
20 they count themselves as being married, but then
21 the Census is not going to count them in that
22 capacity? How is that going to be addressed?

23 LESTER A. FARTHING: I'm sorry.
24 That has changed. So if you put down that you're
25 married, you'll be counted as married.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: So they're
3 going to be counted as married.

4 LESTER A. FARTHING: Yes. Now this
5 has no determination of how they're recognized by
6 the particular state or anything else, it's just
7 on the census form we're counting you as you
8 indicated.

9 CHAIRPERSON SEABROOK: Okay. I
10 just wanted clarification. Thank you very much.

11 [Pause]

12 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: My last
13 question is contingent on that answer that you
14 gave. On question 6 it says, what is person 1's
15 sex. And you know what the political scene is all
16 about now in terms of same-sex marriage, all of
17 that. But a question like this, how would that
18 affect those folks who might be too—that we
19 consider male, but the person may not consider
20 them male? Based on what they answer, based on
21 what they put down?

22 LESTER A. FARTHING: Yes, self-
23 identification.

24 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Just self-
25 identification. So even if they are—why isn't

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there a place for neutral?

LESTER A. FARTHING: Well keep in mind that a lot of this, again, comes from Washington. And again these are categories that are used across all federal government agencies. So I haven't seen anything yet, at least for federal government type activities like this where I've seen that. It's not on there now because it has not been brought up and also Congress and everyone else has not decided to take that on. This is all about self-identification and they're using the two categories, male or female, and the individual will have to make a decision between the two.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: And if it's left out?

LESTER A. FARTHING: If it's left out, if we have no way, we might look at name. There are other things that the Census Bureau can do to make a determination. Some folks do leave certain questions blank, so if we look at the name and if we can make a determination by the name, then the Census Bureau will go ahead and process.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: By name?

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2 LESTER A. FARTHING: By name. If
3 they can't do that, they might just have to leave
4 it blank. If you can't contact somebody you just
5 have a questionnaire where you just have a—you
6 don't know the person's sex.

7 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right.
8 Based on the fact that we have a lot of
9 immigrants, they may be fearful of some of the
10 things that we're trying to do. Why are you
11 asking for their phone numbers?

12 LESTER A. FARTHING: We ask for
13 phone numbers so that we can call back if there's
14 any information that was left out. If they mark
15 on the box, if there are more individuals that are
16 living in the household, for example, than the
17 questionnaire allowed, we can actually contact
18 them back to see—over the phone—to see if we can
19 collect the additional information for the
20 remaining members of the household. But that's
21 why we ask for the phone numbers, so we can call
22 back if something is missed out. So Councilman
23 Jackson—

24 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: [Interposing]
25 Well you and I understand, but I just feel that

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that is one deterrent for this form being filled out.

LESTER A. FARTHING: Well again, it's not mandatory.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right. So it can be left out?

LESTER A. FARTHING: Yes. Yeah, it's not mandatory.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: And I think you guys have done a great job in terms of reducing the number of questions and all of that and I think we will be able to get a better count this time around.

LESTER A. FARTHING: I appreciate that.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: The fact is we need to please do a lot more forums and at gatherings too, at the churches. Everyone should be able to get the information and we should have a lot of people out. How many staff members do you have at this present time?

LESTER A. FARTHING: Well working New York City I have up to about 50 what I call specialists; these are folks that I feel

1 comfortable going out within the communities,
2 making presentations. They may know a lot of you.
3 You know, Councilman Barron referenced one
4 already, Mr. Tillman; he's very connected out in
5 that part of Brooklyn. I have Ms. Patrice Johns
6 [phonetic] working in your area, Mr. Seabrook. So
7 we also have an additional what we call
8 assistants. These are individuals that can also
9 go out to forums for us. If you just need
10 somebody to come out at a table, give information,
11 not to speak, then I have a lot more people that
12 can come out just to do that. So there are a lot
13 of people available to come out.
14

15 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right,
16 thank you.

17 LESTER A. FARTHING: Much more than
18 we had in 2000.

19 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Thank you
20 very much. All right. So our next—thank you very
21 much.

22 LESTER A. FARTHING: Thank you very
23 much.

24 STACEY CUMBERBATCH: Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Our next

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2 panel is Maggie Williams from Senator
3 Schneiderman's office, and we have Sean Barry for
4 NYC AIDS Housing Network, and also we have Susan
5 Lerner from Common Cause New York.

6 [Pause]

7 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: You know Owen
8 Clare [phonetic], works with you guys? Owen
9 Clare.

10 SEAN BARRY: My employer.

11 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Your
12 employer? All right.

13 [Pause]

14 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right, if
15 you can first identify yourself and we can get
16 straight into the testimony, one at a time. Maybe
17 start with the male, first. The left hand side.

18 SEAN BARRY: Hi, good afternoon.
19 My name is Sean Barry. I'm the Director of the
20 New York City AIDS Housing Network, NYCAHN.

21 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right.

22 SUSAN LERNER: I'm Susan Lerner,
23 I'm the Executive Director of Common Cause New
24 York.

25 MAGGIE WILLIAMS: My name is Maggie

1
2 Williams and I'm Counsel for Senator Schneiderman.
3 Good afternoon. It's really wonderful to be here.
4 I'm here representing Senator Schneiderman today.
5 He was unable to make it, but he is really
6 thrilled about these hearings and about the
7 resolution, Council Member Jackson's Resolution.

8 And I'm not going to actually read
9 his entire testimony, which we've submitted, but I
10 just wanted to say that as we work to pass S 1633
11 at the State level, it's really critical to have
12 the Council's support and to have the City's
13 support and we think that this resolution passing
14 through Resolution 190-2006, passing through both
15 this Committee and also the full Council would
16 really send a very strong statement to the State
17 senate and to the legislature in general. And as
18 we're working to pass this bill it's been really
19 helpful to hear the conversation today. Council
20 Member Seabrook mentioned the 3/5ths clause and I
21 think that Senator Schneiderman and others who
22 have been working to advance this issue at the
23 state level definitely see this as a modern-day
24 3/5ths clause essentially, and it has great
25 consequences both for the resources and

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2 representation, both at the City level, so it does
3 become an upstate downstate issue, but it also
4 does pit upstate communities where the prisons are
5 based against upstate communities where the
6 prisons are not based. So this is not just an
7 upstate downstate issue, it's an issue of
8 resources and representations across the state.
9 It's certainly an issue that has huge racial
10 implications for this city and for our
11 constituents.

12 And I think mostly the Senator just
13 really wants to thank all of you for hearing this
14 issue, for taking this issue up and we're really
15 looking forward to working with all of you to
16 advance this both however we can help you at the
17 Council level and then also at the State level.
18 So thank you and I'm available to answer any
19 questions.

20 SUSAN LERNER: Thank you. I'm
21 Susan Lerner. I'm the Executive Director of
22 Common Cause New York. Common Cause New York is a
23 non-partisan citizens lobby and a leading force in
24 the battle for honest and accountable government.
25 We fight to strengthen public participation and

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2 faith in our institutions of self-government and
3 to ensure that governments and political processes
4 serve the general interest and not the special
5 interest. One of the areas that we have worked
6 extensively on is in election reform and ensuring
7 that our elections are open, honest and
8 verifiable.

9 We see the topic of today's hearing
10 as absolutely central to our mission of working
11 for open, honest and accountable government. We
12 believe that the count has to be accurate. It has
13 to reflect where people believe their permanent
14 homes are, not where they may be at the time of
15 the census count, incarcerated, and that this
16 effects not only redistricting—an issue that we
17 work on very much throughout the country as well
18 as here in New York—but as has been mentioned
19 several times, the provision of very basic
20 governmental services. How can we, as a good
21 government advocate, work to have government
22 deploy its assets effectively and efficiently,
23 being sure that the resources are sent where
24 they're really needed, if the census basis for
25 counting our population is deliberately

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2 inaccurate? We see a fallacy in that logic, and
3 as a consequence we see this as not only a civil
4 rights issue but an accountable and effective
5 government issue very central to our mission. And
6 so we're here to express our strong support for
7 the two resolutions. We're very happy to be
8 working also with Senator Schneiderman's office.
9 At the legislative level it has been a legislative
10 priority for us to see a bill correcting the way
11 in which the State counts its incarcerated
12 population last legislative session. It will be a
13 legislative priority for us this coming
14 legislative session, and I'm very glad to see that
15 the Committee is using its oversight capacity to
16 be sure that the Mayor's Executive Order, which
17 has a laudatory purpose, is actually made
18 operational here in the City. So thank you very
19 much.

20 SEAN BARRY: Hi. Good afternoon.
21 My name is Sean Barry. I'm from the New York City
22 AIDS Housing Network. Thank you to Chairman
23 Seabrook and Chairman Stewart for having this
24 joint hearing today, and to Council Member Jackson
25 for introducing his resolution and for being a

1 strong ally of people with AIDS in New York City.
2 NYCAHN is a membership organization led by low-
3 income people with AIDS and service providers in
4 the City, and our vocal New York Users Union is an
5 organizing program led by low-income active and
6 former drug users.
7

8 So why does an organization led by
9 people with AIDS and drug users care about prison-
10 based gerrymandering? Well for one, approximately
11 25% of people with AIDS in New York City spend at
12 least one night in jail or prison in any given
13 year. And more directly the war on drugs, and
14 more accurately the war on low-income people who
15 use drugs is what's driven our soaring prison
16 population in New York State. So prison-based
17 gerrymandering we believe is problematic for
18 several reasons. It violates the 14th amendment in
19 the Constitution; the one person, one vote
20 principle enshrined in that; it violates the New
21 York State Constitution that says no person shall
22 lose their residence as a result of being
23 incarcerated; it, as has already been mentioned,
24 recalls the 3/5ths clause where slaves were
25 counted as less than human in order to inflate the

1 political influence of conservative legislators in
2 the South in the House. We see that happening
3 again today through prison-based gerrymandering
4 where conservative legislators in upstate
5 districts can exaggerate political power because
6 of counting inmates as part of their
7 constituencies. And that therefore diminishes a
8 political power of districts within New York City.

10 In this transferring of political
11 power from communities of color in urban areas to
12 rural predominantly White areas is very real. New
13 York City residents represent 66% of prison
14 inmates in the State of New York and 91% of them
15 are incarcerated in upstate prisons. In fact, 30%
16 of the population growth in upstate New York has
17 been a result of prison inmates relocating up
18 there, of course involuntary. And according to
19 the Sentencing Project, a national prison reform
20 group, Latinos are four and a half times and
21 Blacks are nine and a half times as likely as
22 Whites to be incarcerated in New York State, so
23 there are very clear racial disparities involved.
24 And this creates a self-perpetuating system of
25 mass incarceration where those who draw political

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2 power from policies that produce a large prison
3 population have no incentive to consider
4 alternatives or solutions. So issues that could
5 reduce incarceration are ignored by the
6 policymakers who benefit from this system. We're
7 talking about fair drug policies, quality schools,
8 affordable housing, accessible healthcare, living
9 wage jobs and so on.

10 According to an analysis by
11 Prisoners of the Census, there are seven Senate
12 districts in New York that would have to be
13 redrawn if we adhere to our Constitutional
14 obligation to count prison inmates in their home
15 district. After subtracting inmates, these
16 upstate districts would be under populated beyond
17 an acceptable deviation in designing electoral
18 districts. Also according to Prisoners of the
19 Census, they estimate that 69% of prison cells in
20 New York are in Republican assembly districts and
21 98% of prison cells in New York are in Senate
22 Republican districts. One example is Senator Dale
23 Volker, the former Chair of Senate Codes, current
24 ranking a Republican member; he has been a
25 longstanding opponent to Rockefeller Drug Law

1
2 Reform, who has about 9,000 prison inmates in his
3 district.

4 So we believe it's time for
5 conservative politicians in upstate New York to
6 stop using Black and Latino inmates to unjustly
7 exaggerate their political power. The solution is
8 outlined in Council Member Seabrook's resolution
9 and Council Member Jackson's resolution and the
10 legislation introduced by Senator Schneiderman.
11 It's very simple, and that's counting prison
12 inmates in the communities where they came from
13 and where nearly all of them are eventually going
14 to return to. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: I want to go
16 back to something that I forgot to ask the folks
17 from the Census and if you guys could answer it.
18 We have been speaking about folks who are in
19 prisons and colleges, etcetera. What happens to
20 those who are in the military? How are they
21 counted? Are they counted as being in Iraq or are
22 they not counted at all? Could you explain that
23 to me, because of the fact that they are away and
24 sometimes they are away for more than a year
25 sometimes, how do we count them? Are they not

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counted where they came from?

SUSAN LERNER: You know, I'm embarrassed to say I don't think that any of us don't have the answer. I'm sorry that you didn't ask the Census Bureau because we're curious about it ourselves.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: I just—

SUSAN LERNER: [Interposing] I'm sure there's a procedure; we just don't know.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: It just dawned on me because of the fact that, you know, we are fighting over folks who are in college and we are fighting over folks who are in prison to have them counted in the area that they really came from or live, and there is no question as to folks who are in the military on April 1st or on that date that they want to count them; they might be away for six months. Or what about those students who are overseas in college? I want to know how do we count those. If you know, if you have any idea.

[Off Mic]

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Well in the military or even in Fort Dix.

[Off Mic]

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Yeah, so if we can get an answer there, because we have a number of military bases in the United States that people might be stationed, and likewise they are overseas. But we just want to know how we're going to be counting those folks that might be in these bases at the time of the Census. And that will be very important for us. But if he can discern that, then it means we can understand how we can really—if it's different than what we're doing with the students, then I think there is a problem there.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: All right. Jackson, any questions? All right. I want to thank you for coming. I thank you for your testimony. We're all on the same side, so you know, we're trying to make sure that our constituents get the maximum resources and be counted our constituents. Thank you. We have Kevin Kang [phonetic] and Joseph Little [phonetic]. Kevin Kang and Joseph Little. That's

1 the last panel. All right. He might have left.

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3 JOSEPH LITTLE: Yes, good afternoon
4 everybody. My name is Joseph P. Little. I am a
5 former survivor of the Attica Rebellion or 1971,
6 and I'm also a member of Community Voices Heard,
7 which is a grassroots organization, and I'm also a
8 member of the People for Socialism and Liberation.
9 And I'm here to support the bill 190-A, because
10 when I was in prison due to my political beliefs,
11 they shipped me all over the place from one county
12 to another, from Sing Sing to Wallkill to Elmira,
13 to this prison and I wound up in Attica. So, you
14 know, people get shifted around in prison a lot
15 and I think that it's important that the prisoners
16 get counted from the place that they last resided
17 in, you know, not where they're incarcerated in.
18 Because these White guys up there, they get enough
19 money from our free prison labor making stuff for
20 the town. They already got the jobs. If it
21 wasn't for the prisons they wouldn't even have no
22 income. There wouldn't even be no town in most of
23 the places like Wyoming County, you know, and
24 little towns like that that got two people in it,
25 and everybody from the Mayor on up works in the

1
 2 institution. So I think it's important that you
 3 all support and pass the 190-A bill to have
 4 inmates, you know, counted from where they
 5 originally lived in. That's all I have to say.
 6 I've got some revolutionary business I've got to
 7 take care of later.

8 CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Mr. Jackson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: First, let
 10 me thank you for coming in and for representing
 11 yourself and as a member of Community Voices Heard
 12 and other organizations which you identified. I
 13 think you raise an important point. Inmates in
 14 certain prisons are shipped and moved from one
 15 prison to another. So someone serving five years
 16 in a prison, you know, they may serve one year
 17 there and they maybe shipped to another county and
 18 what have you and so forth. And so when it comes
 19 to census, as you know, the numbers are counted
 20 based on where you are at the time the count takes
 21 place. So in essence, based on funding formulas
 22 you may have been counted in Wyoming County and
 23 now you're in Broom County—

24 JOSEPH LITTLE: [Interposing]

25 Right, right.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And it has
3 no impact whatsoever as far as Broom County. But
4 let me ask you a question. So you were
5 incarcerated at the uprising in Attica the early
6 70s. And where, prior to you being incarcerated,
7 where did you live at?

8 JOSEPH LITTLE: I lived in
9 Brooklyn.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay. You
11 lived in New York City.

12 JOSEPH LITTLE: Right. I lived in
13 New York City, right.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And you
15 lived in Brooklyn. And when you got out of
16 prison, whenever that was, where did you go back
17 to?

18 JOSEPH LITTLE: I went right back
19 to Brooklyn.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Same
21 place?

22 JOSEPH LITTLE: Same place.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And where
24 do you live now?

25 JOSEPH LITTLE: Well I live in the

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2 Bronx. I live at 1015 Fox St. in the Bronx. In
3 all my life, I have worked since I was 14, I had
4 my working papers, I have never, ever been
5 counted. I have never seen anything from the
6 Census Bureau or anything in my entire 65 years on
7 this planet. So I don't know if I've ever been
8 counted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: But you
10 know you're going to be counted this year, right?

11 JOSEPH LITTLE: Well I went down
12 there and took the test to work for these people
13 that do the counting, so I'm going to make sure
14 that at least I count myself if nobody else.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: So with
16 respect to prior to your incarceration you lived
17 in Brooklyn.

18 JOSEPH LITTLE: Right.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And if you
20 don't mind me asking, you don't have to answer
21 that, how long did you serve in prison?

22 JOSEPH LITTLE: I served 36 months.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay, 36
24 months. That's about three years. And after
25 three years in prison you went straight back to

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Brooklyn.

JOSEPH LITTLE: Straight back to

Brooklyn.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay. So

that goes with what we're asking, is to count people in Resolution 190-A where they reside or lived prior to being incarcerated. And you agree with that?

JOSEPH LITTLE: Of course I agree

with that, because this way we don't get disenfranchised from the monies and the disproportion of the legislation body when they do like gerrymandering, when they get more money for upstate and a lot of Black people live up in Wyoming County around these prisons.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: No way.

JOSEPH LITTLE: No way. There's

nothing but, you know, White folks up there and they shouldn't be getting additional monies or more proportionate representation in Congress, it's the center of nowhere. It shouldn't be getting nothing.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Well let

me ask you a question, when you were up in prison

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in Attica, did you go to the community center to play basketball or to play soccer and stuff like that?

JOSEPH LITTLE: I certainly did not.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Did you go to the post office to use the post office services?

JOSEPH LITTLE: I certainly did not.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Did you go to the social services if you needed help as far Section 8 or Welfare, stuff like that?

JOSEPH LITTLE: I certainly did not.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Did you happen to go, while you were in prison to a local hospital or other locations like that?

JOSEPH LITTLE: So in essence, while you were in prison in upstate in Attica or wherever you were, did you enjoy any of the normal amenities that the government provides through federal funding or State funding or City funding while you were incarcerated?

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JOSEPH LITTLE: No, I did not.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: No further questions, your witness.

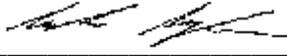
CHAIRPERSON STEWART: Sir, we want to thank you for your testimony. You have lit up the day for up and I hope we can make a difference in terms of these resolutions and please be counted in the Census. Thank you.

JOESPH LITTLE: I certainly will. Have a pleasant afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON STEWART: And that ends our hearing for the day.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature  _____

Date November 30, 2009