

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 18-0898

### Recognizing the Importance of Securing an Accurate and Complete Population Count in the 2020 US Census

**WHEREAS**, The United States Census is a constitutionally mandated complete assessment of the population and has been performed decennially since 1790, most recently in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the census determines the allocation of seats for the US House of Representatives, re-districting of state and local government legislative district boundaries, and distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds to state, local, and tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Hancock has named three co-chairs (Pastor Del Phillips, Dr. Janine Davidson, and Deborah Ortega); to lead the Denver Complete Count Committee that is in the process of training key city employees and community partners to assist with this critically important citizen outreach effort; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, Denver's efforts were a model that cities across the country worked to replicate because our financial commitment to marketing, outreach, and staffing resulted in a high response rate and we will be geared up to do the same for the 2020 Census; and

**WHEREAS**, Denver is a growing city and an accurate census count is vital to meet the evolving needs of Denver residents. Census 2020 will direct the amount of federal money distributed to Denver for housing assistance and rehabilitation, education from early childhood to higher education, transportation infrastructure, senior centers, libraries, hospitals, facilities for people with disabilities, and emergency planning and response; and

**WHEREAS**, punitive actions taken by President Trump against immigrants and refugees from various countries will require our best efforts at the local level to be far-reaching; and

**WHEREAS**, it will be challenging to alleviate the fear of hard to count communities and to educate and encourage full participation by everyone in the upcoming 2020 census; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring a complete census count is imperative because the data will profoundly impact Denver residents far into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, everyone, whether a United States citizen, a refugee immigrant, or an undocumented worker; we all rely on the programs and services provided by local and state government, paid for, in part, by federal grants; and

**WHEREAS**, the complete count committee should address various racial, ethnic, cultural, and geographic considerations of the community to ensure residents understand the census process, trust in its confidentiality, understand its importance; and fulfill their obligation to participate as is required by law; and

**WHEREAS**, census data is highly protected and confidential. The Census Bureau is not permitted to release responses to the census furnished by any individual, or on behalf of an individual, or release information to other government agencies including the Internal Revenue Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, law enforcement agencies, or welfare agencies.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver shall support and assist the complete count committee in fulfilling the goal of achieving a complete count of Denver residents. This will be accomplished by formulating effective strategies to increase Denver's response rate in Census 2020 through outreach, information campaigns, and community engagement.

**Section 2.** The committee will harness the local knowledge, expertise, and influence of each committee member to design and implement a census awareness campaign targeted to communities throughout Denver with focused, structured, neighbor-to-neighbor outreach.

**Section 3.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL August 13, 2018



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PRESIDENT