



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Office of the Director
Washington, DC 20233-0001

September 24, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter dated September 24, 2020, raising several operational questions with respect to the 2020 Census. As you know, the Census Bureau's career experts have developed a plan thoughtfully designed to deliver a complete and accurate census, including reaching hard-to-count populations.

Tim Olson, Associate Director of Field Operations, and Al Fontenot, Associate Director of Decennial Programs, will be available to answer questions at the regularly scheduled staff briefing tomorrow, Friday, September 25, 2020.

In advance of tomorrow's briefing, we wanted to provide a written response today addressing concerns raised in your letter.

Count of persons experiencing homelessness outdoors: Persons experiencing homelessness outdoors are enumerated through a count of Targeted Non-Shelter Outdoor Locations (TNSOL). The TNSOL operation began on September 23, 2020, and was conducted overnight.

The Census Bureau continued adding sites to the TNSOL operation through September 22, 2020, adding thousands in the days and weeks leading up to the operation. Additionally, enumerators are instructed to count individuals in the immediate vicinity of that location. To avoid overlap, other enumeration teams may be assigned to work adjacent locations.

Domestic violence shelters: The Census Bureau maintains a very sensitive list of domestic violence shelters (DVS), and we follow very specific procedures to keep their locations confidential and protect their residents. We send trained group quarters (GQ) supervisors to these locations.

Occasionally, a regular Nonresponse Follow-Up (NRFU) enumerator may encounter a DVS location that was not known in advance. In this rare circumstance, enumerators are instructed to complete the enumeration as usual and not to disclose its status as a DVS to anyone. Title 13 prohibits Census Bureau employees from sharing any information about any address or persons

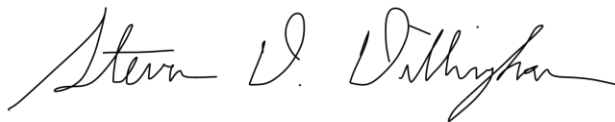
with anyone outside the Census Bureau, or with anyone at the Census Bureau who does not have a need to know.

Citizenship question reference in training materials: The document referenced was a phone script for advance contact to GQs that was released to the regions in early February 2020. On February 7, 2020, the error was identified and immediately removed from circulation. Within 24 hours, the corrected script was reissued to the regions, and repeated notices were delivered to regional and Area Census Office (ACO) staff to use the corrected script. Incorrect copies of the script were destroyed. Staff at headquarters also instituted an immediate review of all enumeration and training materials used for the 2020 Census to ensure that all materials had been updated to remove reference to the citizenship question following the Supreme Court decision. This call script was the only item that had not been updated.

While it was discovered and destroyed before any enumeration activity was done, it is important to note that this script was not designed for enumeration. Rather, this script was provided to staff who would make advance calls to GQ facilities to make arrangements for the actual enumeration.

Thank you for your continued interest in 2020 Census operations. We look forward to addressing any questions during tomorrow's briefing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven D. Dillingham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "D".

Steven D. Dillingham
Director

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member