



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau

Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 4, 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Re: Student Housing

The United States Constitution provides that a census of the United States be taken every 10 years. In the year 2010, the Census Bureau will conduct a decennial census across the Nation to enumerate the U.S. population. The decennial census provides the information each community needs to obtain funding for schools, employment services, health assistance, parks, services for older adults, and more.

In order to prepare for the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau is conducting the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal in your area. The dress rehearsal will help us to rehearse our procedures before we conduct a full census in 2010. During the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal there will be operations conducted to enumerate people who live or stay in group quarters, particularly, student housing such as residence halls.

When enumerating the residents at your school, the Census Bureau collects data in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Colleges and universities can disclose directory information from student records to the Census Bureau without prior consent of the student or his or her parents. Directory information includes a student's name, date of birth, address, and dates of attendance.

As an important component of your community, your school presents a special challenge in assuring a complete count. College students are considered residents of the city where they live while attending school, not of their hometowns. During this operation, we will count students who live in the residence halls including fraternity and sorority houses. The operation will occur in early April, before the end of school.

If you have any questions, please call the Local Census Office. The telephone number is provided in your census materials. Thank you for your cooperation, we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Charles Louis Kincannon
Director

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