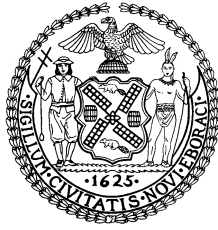


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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
2020 Census Task Force  
Thursday, April 25, 2019 - 6:30PM  
Community Board 8 Manhattan Office  
505 Park Avenue, Suite 620**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Loraine Brown, Rebecca Lamorte, Craig Lader, Monica Sanchez\*

\*Public Member

The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Taskforce and provide the community with educational information on the 2020 Census.

The meeting began with a presentation from Joli Golden, Partnership Specialist with the US Census Bureau's New York Regional Office. Ms. Golden reviewed the mission, timeline, and job opportunities of the 2020 Census. The Census will commence in early 2020 with the goal of counting everyone once, regardless of immigration status, and for the first time will include digital platforms for responses. Prior to the questionnaires being deployed, the Census will recruit individuals for a variety of job opportunities to aid in the count. Recruitment for Census office and field jobs is currently open and will run through Spring 2020, jobs and how to apply can be found on: <http://2020census.gov/jobs> and <http://USAjobs.gov>. Ms. Golden's full PowerPoint presentation can be found on the CB8 website.

Pharein Griffith from New York Counts 2020 coalition then gave a presentation on the Census and the possibility of CB8 passing a resolution in support of the coalition. New York Counts 2020 is a statewide organization comprising more than 200 organizations working together with government officials to ensure New Yorkers, especially those in marginalized communities or hard-to-count areas, maximize participation in the 2020 Census. The coalition was central to New York State allocating \$20 million towards the Census and is working to continue pressuring New York City to also allocate funds to help in an accurate count.

**Draft Resolution for Committee Approval at a later date:**

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

**WHEREAS** the Census serves to gather demographic information which in turn dictates how \$700 billion in federal funding is allocated to state and local governments for a variety of services including, but not limited to, housing, education, and healthcare;

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

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

**WHEREAS** a citizenship question has been proposed for the Census by the United States Secretary of Commerce and is currently before the US Supreme Court for a decision on inclusion;

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

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

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

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

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

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

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 will:

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

The Taskforce discussed putting out a petition urging Mayor de Blasio and the City Council to allocate funding in the City's FY2020 budget to aid in getting an accurate count of homeless and other marginalized individuals in our community. The group reviewed the following petition language and agreed to have the ask be \$40 million to mirror what the New York County 2020 coalition is asking the City for. The petition will be made on SurveyMonkey and posted on the CB8 website and social media.

### **Intro Text**

**URGE NYC MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO & COUNCIL TO FUND COMMUNITY BOARDS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE 2020 CENSUS!**

In a little over a year, the United States will begin the 2020 Census. The Census will dictate the federal funding given to New York City and in doing so, will shape our lives for years to come. The New York City Council is currently engaging in budget negotiations for FY2020 and it is imperative they fund Community Boards (CBs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to help ensure New York City has the most accurate count possible. Funding CBs and CBOs will help maximize participation specifically for one of the most hard-to-count populations, the homeless.

Be it emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens, unsheltered locations, barriers to internet access or age, young children are traditionally very hard to count and approximately 22% of the

homeless are children, homeless New Yorkers face many hurdles to being counted in the Census. Funding community-based organizations for this work will garner a more accurate count than a regular Census employee because of the deep relationships they have within their communities.

### **Petition Language**

To Mayor de Blasio and New York City Council Members:

We, the undersigned residents of New York City, urge you to allocate \$40 million for Community Boards and community-based organizations to conduct outreach on the 2020 Census. These groups will provide much-needed assistance to ensure we get the most accurate count possible, more specifically for those most often overlooked, the homeless. The more people we count, the more federal dollars the City will have for healthcare, housing, education, and infrastructure. Without this funding for an accurate count, those that are too often overlooked will continue to be.

Name

Borough of Residence

Zip Code

The Taskforce discussed next steps and will be working with Ms. Golden and her colleagues at the Census to host a job recruitment fair at the Stanley Isaacs Houses. The Taskforce will also provide Ms. Golden with a list of upcoming street fairs in the neighborhood the Census can send representatives to.

The Taskforce will meet next on Thursday, May 30th. The meeting adjourned at 8pm.

**Loraine Brown and Rebecca Lamorte, Co-Chairs**