

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

August 4, 2020

2020 U.S. CENSUS NON-RESPONSE FOLLOW-UP AND SELF-RESPONSE PERIOD

An accurate and complete 2020 United States Census (Census) count is vital to Los Angeles County (County) because Census data is used to determine how more than \$675 billion in federal government resources will be distributed annually for the next decade to states and local governments. This data is also critical to ensuring that all residents are equally represented in all levels of government and is used to adjust or redraw electoral districts.

In April 2020, the United States (U. S.) Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census' (Bureau) Non-Response Follow-Up (NRFU) deadline and the self-response period were extended to October 31, 2020 to allow the Bureau's workers additional time to conduct in-person interviews due to delays and setbacks caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Notwithstanding the earlier announcement, on August 3, 2020 in a statement from U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham, it was announced that in-person interviews for the Census will end on September 30, instead of October 31.

By suddenly and unexpectedly shortening the NRFU date by an entire month, the Bureau has created great uncertainty, negatively impacting counties and cities that rely on this information to plan their educational efforts to maximize Census participation. This shortened NRFU period undermines the complete and accurate count of all County

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residents, which will in turn create a substantial risk that critical public funds and elected representation will be improperly apportioned.

I THEREFORE MOVETHAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Determine that, based upon the foregoing facts, and pursuant to Government Code section 54954.2(b)(2) that:
 - a. There is a need to take immediate action to ensure that the County of Los Angeles (County) can raise its concerns regarding a fair and accurate count of all its residents for the 2020 United States Census (Census);
 - b. The need to take this action came to the attention of the Board of Supervisors (Board) after the posting of the agenda for today's meeting.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to send a 5-signature letter to the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (Bureau) and to United States Congressional leadership expressing the Board's concern about the Bureau's timeline for conducting its Non-Response Follow-Up (NRFU) and the time allowed for self-responses, which were extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but has now been shortened for unknown reasons.
3. Direct County Counsel to monitor the Bureau's guidance regarding its NRFU and self-response timelines and to file or join as plaintiff or as amici in a lawsuit(s) opposing the Bureau's decision to shorten the timeline for NRFU and/or self-response for the Census, as deemed appropriate by County Counsel.

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(CG/DJ)