



Legislation Text

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City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 6, 2021

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER /s/

DOCKET TITLE:

Final Report of the Alexandria Complete Count Committee for the 2020 U.S. Census.

ISSUE: Summary of activities of the Alexandria Complete Count Committee established by City Council through Resolution No. 2867 to promote the 2020 U.S. Census.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council:

1. Receive this Final Report from the Alexandria Complete Count Committee summarizing outreach activities; and
2. Commend the members of the Committee and the Complete Count Partners for their work resulting in a *Complete Count* for Alexandria.

BACKGROUND: The 2020 Alexandria Complete Count Committee, chaired by Councilman Canek Aguirre, was comprised of 52 members including residents, representatives from non-profit and community partners, and City and Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) staff. In its role to encourage all Alexandria residents to participate in the 2020 Census, Committee members worked with staff to develop and implement an outreach strategy focused especially on communities that have been historically undercounted.

As a result of the Committee's efforts, Alexandria reached a *Complete Count* - 100% of households in the city were counted in the 2020 Census - a huge accomplishment in the best of circumstances.

The Committee's attached final report details their activities leading to this achievement.

DISCUSSION: Throughout the course of the last 18-months, the City responded to several issues that could have potentially threatened an accurate count in Alexandria, endangering representational democracy as well as jeopardizing the City's ability to provide programs and services to its residents.

The City Attorney's Office took action on the City's behalf through the following:

- Reached out to entities working on US Supreme Court challenges to the Trump Administration's attempt to include the

immigration question on the Census which resulted in the City signing on to support an amicus brief with other state and local elected officials filed in the case of the *Department of Commerce v. State of New York, et al.* [This amicus brief <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/planning/SupremeCourtCensusBrief-2019-04-01.pdf>](https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/planning/SupremeCourtCensusBrief-2019-04-01.pdf) urged the Supreme Court to affirm the decision of the lower court rejecting the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 Census and ensuring the proper allocation of federal funding to the communities and individuals who need and rely on that funding. The US Supreme Court ultimately held that the Administration had not followed the proper procedures for adding the question and remanded the case to the District Court. Council Resolution 2874 in support of excluding the citizenship question is attached (Attachment 6).

- Reviewed and monitored Virginia’s response to Executive Order 13880 directing the US Department of Commerce to try to gain access to state administrative records (“data sharing agreements”), resulting in the attached response by the City (Attachment 7).
- Provided legal guidance regarding Census enumerators legally accessing residential buildings to obtain census information.

The City also joined the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the US Census Bureau in their request to extend the statutory reporting deadlines for the Census and provide adequate funding to address continued challenges brought about by the pandemic. The letter to the US Senate is attached (Attachment 8).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: Final Report of the Complete Count Committee

Attachment 2: Work Program and Members of the Complete Count Committee

Attachment 3: Partnership Organizations

Attachment 4: ACT for Alexandria Summary Report of Census Support

Attachment 5: Alexandria Library Summary Report of Activities

Attachment 6: Resolution in Support of an Accurate 2020 Census without the Citizenship Question

Attachment 7: Letter to the US Census Bureau on the Effect of US Census Differential Privacy on the City of Alexandria

Attachment 8: Letter to U.S. Senate Requesting Census Deadline Extension

Attachment 9: Examples of Print Materials

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