



United States™ Census Bureau



February 17, 2020

Dear Law Enforcement Professional:

We write you today to ask for your help.

The U.S. Census Bureau will soon launch the 2020 Census, which sends nearly half a million government employees to neighborhoods across the nation, collecting vital data from a variety of households. This Constitutionally mandated effort, which requires that every living person in the country be counted, contributes to most of the major statistical reports used by American businesses and government entities—including law enforcement agencies. In addition, the decennial census forms the basis for the annual distribution of more than a \$675 billion in federal funds to states and local communities.

In carrying out their duties under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, Census employees are required to approach homes and businesses to gather information, an inherently risky interaction that subjects the employees to potential violence. Over the years, Census employees working in communities across the nation have been victims of a variety of crimes, including robberies, carjackings, and kidnappings. During the 2010 Census, employees visited 47 million homes and were the victims of more than 700 reported acts of violence across the United States. While some of these crimes were ultimately investigated and successfully prosecuted, others were not. Additionally, it is likely that other criminal acts against Census employees may not have been reported.

Together with the Office of Inspector General (OIG), a federal law enforcement agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, we seek your assistance in aiding in the detection, reporting, and prosecution of violent crimes against Census Bureau workers. The Census Bureau typically notifies local law enforcement prior to activity in local communities by Census workers, and we appreciate your help with aggressively pursuing the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes committed against them and their property. While assault of a Census employee is a federal crime, it is generally prosecuted at the local level. For instance, in January 2012, a Cook County (Georgia) grand jury indicted a Georgia man for state charges of assault and destruction of property related to a Census Bureau employee being physically beaten and stabbed with a knife while on the job during the 2010 Census. The defendant later pleaded guilty to one count of Battery and one count of Criminal Trespass.

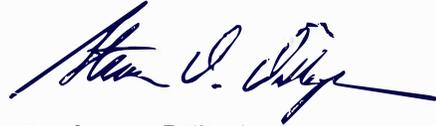
OIG maintains a hotline that serves as a resource to both you and the communities you serve. Complaints can be submitted via phone at 800.424.5197 or online at <https://doc.govcomhotline.com/>. For more information, please visit <https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Hotline.aspx>.

Thank you for sharing this letter with your officers and deputies. We greatly appreciate your support in helping to protect Census employees while they serve our country.

Sincerely,



Peggy E. Gustafson
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Commerce



Dr. Steven Dillingham
Director
U.S. Census Bureau