



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

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Press Release

April 5, 2010

**COUNTY JUDGE CARLOS CASCOS SENDS LETTER TO DIRECTOR OF U.S. CENSUS
BUREAU.**

“SEE ATTACHED”

April 5, 2010

Robert M. Groves, Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Groves,

For the last several months, we have been actively advocating, promoting & publicizing the Census 2010 initiative. In Cameron County, and for that matter, South Texas, we recognize the importance of obtaining an accurate and complete count of our population, and that includes all our population, whether it resides in our urban areas or our more rural communities. As elected officials, we have reached out to numerous agencies and non-profits, created census committees and participated in public service announcements in order to get the word out and encourage our residents to participate in the 2010 Census.

I have recently been advised that the Census Bureau will be treating those individuals living in colonias or unincorporated areas of not only Cameron County, but in our neighboring Counties as well, differently than those residents living in the urban areas as it relates to providing census forms.

Many of the residents in the colonias and unincorporated areas receive mail on a regular basis, which raises a concern to me as to why many of these residents will not be receiving their Census forms in the mail as the rest of our population and why the Census Bureau unilaterally decided that mail to those residents was not warranted.

We have a significant number of residents that live in the unincorporated areas, many of these areas are termed as "colonias", as much as 25% of our estimated population may live in these areas and our concern is the obvious.....many may not be counted. I understand that the Census Bureau will conduct a door to door campaign. If this is accurate, I have the following questions:

1. Do you have enough census workers that can adequately conduct this type of campaign?
2. Will these workers be bilingual?
3. Will these workers be hired from within our community to insure familiarity with the area?
4. If these door to door visits occur during the day, when many of our residents are at work, what is the protocol in making sure that these individuals are not left out?
5. Is there any reason, this "new" methodology was not conveyed to our local officials?

I would appreciate answers to my questions as soon as possible. Again, we all recognize the importance and the impact an accurate count will have on our community & I strongly encourage you to rethink the manner in which the Census Bureau intends to count our residents residing in the rural areas of our County. I would encourage you to not only mail the Census forms to our rural community, but follow up with a door to door campaign as well.

If the information I have learned is inaccurate, please advise. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos H. Cascos, CPA
Cameron County Judge

cc: Honorable John Cornyn, U.S. Senator
Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator
Honorable Ruben Hinojosa, U.S. Congressman
Honorable Solomon Ortiz, U.S. Congressman