

A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly affirming the Haines Borough's support of and partnership with the 2020 Census by establishing a Complete Count Committee directed by Haines Economic Development Corporation.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a count of the population and provides a historic opportunity to help shape the foundation of our society and play an active role in American democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough is committed to ensuring every resident is counted; and

WHEREAS, federal and state funding is allocated to communities, and decisions are made on matters of national and local importance based, in part, on census data; and

WHEREAS, census data helps determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and is necessary for an accurate and fair redistricting of state legislative seats, borough and city councils and voting districts; and

WHEREAS, the information collected by the census is confidential and protected by law; and

WHEREAS, information from the 2020 Census and American Community Survey are vital tools for economic development and increased employment; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Economic Development Corporation (HEDC) is a private nonprofit corporation with the goal of realizing economic development in the Haines Borough through research, strategic planning, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, according to the August 31, 2018 memorandum of understanding, HEDC and the Haines Borough maintain a partnership to provide efficient, responsive and effective delivery of public economic development goals. HEDC is responsible for the deliverables of setting goals and initiating programs associated with its strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, the Haines 5-Year Economic Development Plan assigns "increase community economic development awareness and engagement" as its first objective; and

WHEREAS, HEDC relies on accurate Census data for its Baseline Economic Report; and

WHEREAS, the 2000 Census participation rate for the Haines Borough was 62 percent and the 2010 participation rate was only 46 percent. Among other factors, participation rates can be linked to erroneous enumerations; and

WHEREAS, the Census estimates that the 2010 Alaska population had been undercounted by 7.87 percent. An undercount by just one percent during the 2010 Census for Haines (est. 86 people) equates to roughly \$744,000 in federal funding during the Census cycle of 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Census count requires extensive work and local involvement in order to achieve a complete and accurate count; and

WHEREAS, a united voice from the Haines Borough, HEDC, business, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and others will enable the 2020 Census message to reach more of our citizens and increase our participation rate; and

WHEREAS, a Haines Borough Complete Count Committee will bring together a cross section of community members who will utilize their local knowledge and expertise to reach out to all persons of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Haines Borough Complete Count Committee will work with the Census Bureau to strive for an accurate count; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the Haines Borough, the HEDC board of directors agrees HEDC will oversee the formation of the 2020 Complete Count Committee and facilitate the committee's work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Haines Borough establishes a 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, which will:

1. Bring together a cross section of community organizations and citizens whose focus is 2020 Census awareness.
2. Utilize the local knowledge, expertise, and influence of each Complete Count Committee member to design and implement a census awareness campaign targeted to our community.
3. Strive to increase the self-response rate for households responding online, by phone or mailing back their questionnaire by building awareness through social media, newsletters, community events and other communications.
4. Help recruit census workers when jobs become available.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 26th day of March, 2019.

Attest:


Alekka Fullerton, CMC, Borough Clerk




Janice Hill, Mayor