

By Cathy Lacy

Denver Regional Census Director

Census employees, community leaders, and neighborhood volunteers are committed to ensuring that every United States resident is counted according to constitutional mandate.

We've done a lot so far in order to make this happen. We've organized community events in hundreds of neighborhoods throughout the state to raise awareness of the census.

We've sent our workforce to complete an advance canvassing of all households. We've sent mailings of Census forms, reminders to fill in those forms, replacements and hand delivered forms in some areas.

We have done this because we understand how important the census is. And on May 1, we began the next phase of this effort, sending our workforce out to follow up with those housing units we have not received a from.

I would like to encourage residents as strongly as possible to cooperate with these workers as they come to your door.

Though the 2010 census is a national effort, the best census is conducted locally and these workers have been recruited at a community level in order to conduct operations near to where they live. They are your friends, your neighbors and possibly the parents of people your son and daughter go to school with.

What do the enumerators—census takers—have to do? Each enumerator is given a binder of addresses in an area that includes all those addresses for which we have not received a

completed questionnaire. Because houses without numbers and street name addresses can be difficult to find, enumerators in rural areas also receive maps that have the housing unit locations marked on them.

The enumerator must go to each address in the assignment area to complete the questionnaire for the housing unit and its occupants.

At the same time, as we ask you to welcome census takers, we want to make sure you know how to identify our workforce so you can cooperate with them.

We want you to know that a 2010 census taker will ALWAYS have an official U.S. Census ID badge marked with their name and may have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag.

They will NEVER ask to enter your home, will never ask for payment for your information and will never ask you to submit your information online.

Ensuring that we get a strong, accurate count is important and, if you haven't already returned your forms in the mail, welcoming our staff when they come to your door is a part of this.

The United States has conducted this count 22 times since Thomas Jefferson presided over the first Census in 1790. The data helps decide how more than \$400 billion dollars annually in federal funding is allocated and helps determine congressional representation.

So I ask you to do your part. Open your door when your census taker comes to your home. They are your friends, your neighbors, and welcoming them is a simple action that will help your community.

Ensuring that we get a strong, accurate count is important and cannot be done without following up on households that are not represented in the count. Welcoming our staff and providing the information to the 10 simple questions they ask is a part of this.

