

2010 Census: IT'S IN OUR HANDS

April

2009

Dear Resident:

Between April and July of 2009, U.S. Census employees will be visiting every household unit in every neighborhood of your community. In order to conduct the 2010 Decennial Census, the Census Bureau must know the address and physical location of each place where people live or stay. Our Census employees will wear official identification and carry hand-held computers to capture physical addresses and their GPS coordinates.

We are reaching out to police departments, local governments and civic organizations to inform the community about this important activity, thereby reducing public concern. We appreciate your cooperation and support in educating your community.

The U.S. Census Bureau Partnership Specialist working in your area will contact you in the near future to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Kathleen N. Ludgate
Regional Director
Boston Region

For more information go to: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census>

2010 Census is Different

The Census Bureau has changed the way it conducts the national count.

Goodbye Long Form

In the past, most households received a short-form questionnaire, while one household in six received a long form that contained additional questions and provided more detailed socioeconomic information about the population.

The 2010 Census will be a **short-form only** census and will count all residents living in the United States as well as ask for name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing tenure – taking just minutes to complete.

The more detailed socioeconomic information is now collected through the American Community Survey. The survey provides current data about your community every year, rather than once every 10 years. It is sent to a small percentage of the population on a rotating basis throughout the decade. No household will receive the survey more often than once every five years.

What is the Census?

- The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years.
- The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution.
- The next census is in 2010.
- Your participation in the census is required by law.
- It takes less than 10 minutes to complete.
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census.
- Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to pro-