

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING THE CENSUS 2020 COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

#4605

Sponsors:

Council
President
Shabazz

Council
Members
Dixon
Freel
Harlee
Oliver
Walsh

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau is responsible for collecting and managing data related to the American population; and

WHEREAS, these responsibilities include fulfilling a Constitutional obligation every ten years to conduct a count, or Census, of all those living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, with the 2020 Census rapidly approaching, and with preparations being made at the national level and in communities across the country, the City of Wilmington wishes to follow the recommendations of the Census Bureau in establishing a Complete Count Committee; and

WHEREAS, this Committee would be charged with collecting efforts and mobilizing resources throughout Wilmington – both internal and external to City government – to ensure a comprehensive plan is developed and that the City does its part to ensure an accurate count of its residents in the 2020 Census; and

WHEREAS, an accurate count in the 2020 Census will help ensure that Wilmingtonians receive an equitable share of federal funding, as well as federal and state representation, and is critical to the City’s efforts to continue to move Wilmington forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 2 of the City Code is hereby amended by creating a new Section 2-32.2 and adding the underlined language as follows:

Section 2-32.2. Census 2020 Complete Count Committee

Establishment There is hereby established a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee (“Committee”) for the purpose of mobilizing and leveraging personnel and

resources both internal and external to City government, in order to provide assistance to the representatives of the United States Census Bureau in the conduct of the decennial census, in order to assure an accurate census count – and consequentially, an equitable share of financial assistance and federal representation for Wilmingtonians.

Members The Committee shall be led by two co-chairs: the Mayor (or his or her designee) and the President of City Council (or his or her designee). Recognizing the benefit of inclusion of a range of stakeholders, the Committee shall also be composed, generally, of the following members:

1. Department representatives from relevant City departments
2. Elected officials
3. Representatives of faith-based organizations
4. Representatives from local institutions of higher education
5. Representatives from area school districts
6. Representatives from the nonprofit and community service sector
7. Representatives from City-based business enterprises
8. State Complete Count Committee representative

It shall be the prerogative of the Committee's chairs to add additional members at any time should, through their determination, such additions be of benefit to the mission of the Committee. For the purposes of this Section, a quorum shall consist of at least two thirds of the members of the Committee.

Responsibilities The Committee shall be responsible for the following activities between the date of establishment and the conclusion of the 2020 Census process when declared by Census officials:

1. To establish and maintain an ongoing connection with local representatives and officials with the United States Census Bureau, for the purpose of being updated about developments at the federal level and to be kept apprised of needs with which the Committee could assist
2. To devise a plan for the City of Wilmington – both as a municipal government and as a community – to prepare for the 2020 Census and to assist representatives of the United States Census Bureau with the conduct of this decennial Census
3. To devise a plan for an educational campaign to help inform residents of Wilmington about the importance of this process, leveraging such tools as the City's existing communications channels, including WITN Channel 22 and the City's website
4. To take appropriate measures to ensure that the elements of the plan created by this Committee are carried out

Reports to City Council and the Public The Committee shall also be responsible for making quarterly reports to City Council by appearing at a Committee of the Whole

meeting scheduled by the President of City Council on a quarterly basis commencing on July 1, 2019 and continuing through the close of the Census process.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its date of passage by the City Council and approval by the Mayor.

First Reading..... December 6, 2018
Second Reading.... December 6, 2018
Third Reading.....

Passed by City Council,

President of City Council

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Approved this ____ day of _____, 2018

Mayor

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance establishes a Census 2020 Complete Count Committee for the purpose of mobilizing and leveraging personnel and resources both internal and external to City government, in order to provide assistance to the representatives of the United States Census Bureau in the conduct of the decennial census. The intent of establishing this committee is to assure an accurate census count – and consequentially, an equitable share of financial assistance and federal and state representation for Wilmingtonians

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: This Ordinance has no anticipated fiscal impact.

POLICY STATEMENT: This Ordinance is intended to follow best practices recommendations from the United States Census Bureau through the establishment of a Complete Count Committee. This approach is similar to what was codified by the City in connection with the 2000 Census as well. This Ordinance mirrors suggested language from the United States Census Bureau, and is similar to measures taken in cities, towns and communities across the country.