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THE CITY OF CRANSTON

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**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL**  
**ENCOURAGING ALL RHODE ISLANDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CENSUS 2020**  
**AND BE COUNTED**

No. 2020-5

*Passed:*  
February 24, 2020

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*/s/ Michael J Farina, Council President*

***Resolved that,***

**WHEREAS**, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires every man, woman, and child in America be counted every ten years for purposes of allocating seats in Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, April 1, 2019 marks one year until the next decennial census of the population must be conducted; and

**WHEREAS**, In December 2018, the United States Census Bureau ranked Rhode Island's second congressional seat number 388, with only the top 385 districts to be seated; and

**WHEREAS**, An undercount of the population in 2020 will likely result in the loss of fair representation for Rhode Island in the United States House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Census will not only be the basis for drawing congressional, state and local voting districts, but also the allocation of \$700 billion dollars in federal funds for the next decade; and

**WHEREAS**, one third of Rhode Island's state budget, approximately \$3 billion, is comprised of these federal dollars, including funding for police and fire departments, small business owners, housing, healthcare, education, Medicaid, clean water, waste disposal, and other services; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government allocated \$157 million to Rhode Island's elementary and secondary schools in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, local jurisdictions across Rhode Island use Census data to determine social and economic characteristics of its populations, funding needs for infrastructure projects, economic development programs, job trainings and other activities; and

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41       **WHEREAS**, obtaining a fair and accurate count from both rural and urban  
42 communities across Rhode Island has historically proven to be difficult in the 61 Census tracts  
43 known to be Hard-to-Count, spanning from north to south and east to west, encompassing  
44 such communities as Woonsocket, West Warwick, South Kingstown, and Newport; and

45       **WHEREAS**, the late proposal by the Secretary of Commerce to add an untested  
46 citizenship question puts the ability to achieve an accurate count at serious risk throughout the  
47 United States, leading the American Sociological Association, 6 former Census Bureau  
48 Directors from both Republican and Democrat administrations, more than 161 Mayors, and 19  
49 State Attorneys General to all come out publicly against inclusion of a citizenship question;  
50 and

51       **WHEREAS**, for the first time in United States history the Census Bureau will be  
52 launching its survey response through electronic means, creating a risk to communities  
53 with limited internet access; and

54       **WHEREAS**, the United States Government Accountability Office has sounded the  
55 alarm in a series of reports that budget cuts, cyber-security weakness and the ongoing legal  
56 battle regarding the citizenship question may impede the accuracy of the agency's critical  
57 work.

58       **WHEREAS**, it will take the united action of all Rhode Island towns and cities to  
59 ensure a complete and accurate count and, furthermore, it will be vitally important for local  
60 governments to support census outreach and education efforts to ensure that every Rhode  
61 Islander is counted in the 2020 Census; and

62       **WHEREAS**, The Rhode Island Complete Count Committee, ordered by the Governor,  
63 shall develop, recommend and assist in the administration of a census outreach strategy to  
64 encourage full participation in the 2020 federal decennial census of population.

65       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Council recognizes the critical  
66 importance of Census 2020 for the future of Rhode Island and encourages all residents to  
67 participate in the 2020 Census and to become involved in peer education and outreach; and

68       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support the effort of the Rhode Island  
69 Complete Count Committee to raise at least \$1.2 million to build a community outreach  
70 campaign to ensure that all of Rhode Island is counted in 2020; and

71       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Co-  
72 Chairs of Rhode Island Complete Count Committee, the Governor, the Speaker of the House,  
73 and the President of the Senate.

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77       Sponsored by Council President Farina