



Dear Bridgeport Community Leader,

The City of Bridgeport extends a formal invitation to join the **Bridgeport Complete Count Task Force**, a volunteer local body created to increase awareness and participation in the 2020 Census. You have been identified as a leader in the Bridgeport community and someone with expertise, influence, and connections that will help the Task Force reach our “hard-to-count” neighbors and help make the 2020 Census a success for Bridgeport. We invite you to attend our first major Task Force convening:

Wednesday, July 17, 2019
4:00PM-6:00PM
Margaret Morton Center
Conference Rooms A,B (1st Floor)
999 Broad St., Bridgeport, CT

The Census play central role in how the federal government allocates billions of dollars to provide services to our most at-risk populations, among them children, seniors, and low-income families. In addition to this critical funding, the Census is used in the process of determining how many federal and state legislators are allocated to Connecticut and Bridgeport, respectively. **A Census under-count can cost Bridgeport a loss of millions in federal dollars as well as our fair share of political representation in Washington and Hartford.**

The 2020 Census has become one of the most anticipated events next year due to a combination of rising fear over the hostile rhetoric from the White House toward the immigrant population, the uncertainty created by the Citizenship Question lawsuit, and the critical changes being made to the Census due to budget cuts.

Bridgeport is at the epicenter of this concern in Connecticut. Of the 38 census tracts in Bridgeport, 35 are designated as “Hard to Count (HTC)” communities. HTC communities, by Census definition, are those neighborhoods with less than 73.5% of the households responding to the mailed Census survey. **Based on the 2010 Census, the median response rate in Bridgeport was 64%. This severe under-counting of our community means we serve 100% of our residents with only 64% of the resources we are rightfully entitled to.**

Bridgeport is proud to be the first city in Connecticut to pass local resolutions creating a municipally-led “Complete Count Task Force” to ensure that the 2020 Census in Bridgeport is as accurate as possible. This Task Force is currently led by City Clerk Lydia Martinez and City



Council Member Maria Zambrano Viggiano (D-136) with the support and collaboration of City Council President Aidee Nieves and Mayor Joe Ganim.

We hope you will accept this opportunity to help us advance this critical work and ensure that Bridgeport receives the resources we need and deserve. See you on July 17th!

Sincerely,

Lydia Martinez, Task Force Co-Chair, Bridgeport City Clerk

Maria Zambrano Viggiano, Task Force Co-Chair, Bridgeport City Council Member (D-136)