

CITY COMMISSION

WORK SESSION MINUTES

January 28, 2020

6:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Chilton, Estrop, O'Neill, Rue and President Copeland. City Manager Heck.

GUEST: Donald Sanders, Partnership Specialist, United States Census Bureau.

HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS:

Topics discussed at the work session held on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, were:

1. Mr. Donald Sanders of the United States Census Bureau presented information on the upcoming 2020 Census and the impact of counting all residents for future federal funding. Their theme is "To count everyone once, only once, and in the right place." The Census Bureau is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce and has conducted a population count since 1790. Information collected in the census measures the nation and remains confidential for statistical purposes. Annually \$675 billion in federal funds is distributed to communities for housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy based on the census numbers. Boundaries for legislative districts are also determined by the count.

Citizens not counted in an area impacts the community for ten years until the next count. Undercounted groups often include 18-24 year-olds, persons with disabilities, seniors, children under 5, and veterans.

Residents may use various methods to complete the census: the online form (seven questions take approximately 10 minutes to complete), by telephone, or by mail. Invitations to announce the beginning of the process will be mailed on March 2, 2020, with the actual survey mailed shortly thereafter. Citizens who do not respond will have a Census employee visit. The Census Bureau is asking for government agencies and local organizations to help post signs and remind citizens to complete the survey.

Mr. Copeland stated the message needs to reach low-income neighborhood residents to complete the Census because it generates funding for housing in their area.

Dr. Estrop suggested reminders go out on utility bills to reach all households.

Mr. O'Neill asked if there is a penalty for refusing to complete the survey. Mr. Sanders replied that it is the law to complete the census.

Mrs. Chilton asked about the period to complete the census. Mr. Sanders stated April 1 is the kickoff and the numbers should be finalized by September. However, the actual count should be completed by July. Mr. Sanders reminded everyone that once the census is completed, the numbers are final.

Mr. Copeland asked if a person needs to be a citizen to be counted. Mr. Sanders stated that residents are counted and do not need to be legal citizens.

Mrs. Chilton also asked for information on census employment. Persons interested in working for the Census Bureau may use the website 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-JOB2020.

Dr. Estrop commented the City of Springfield would use social media, newsletters, and the website to promote the Census 2020.

Mr. Sanders stated the week of March 2-6 is designated for the Statistics in Schools Program for all schools in the United States to participate in promoting the census at school as well as sending home reminders to parents.

Dr. Estrop inquired about Spanish language materials for the city schools to share with the Hispanic population. Mr. Sanders stated materials are available on the Census website in 12 languages.

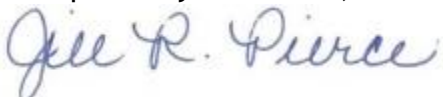
2. On motion of Dr. Estrop, seconded by Mr. Rue, the meeting adjourned.

Yeas, Mrs. Chilton, Dr. Estrop, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Rue and Mr. Copeland.

Yeas 5, Nays 0.

Adj. 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill R. Pierce
Clerk of the City Commission