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CENSUS GROUP TO LAUNCH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Complete Count Committee for Twentynine Palms is ready to launch a community-wide awareness campaign for Census 2010. The group will meet on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall, 6136 Adobe Road, to begin preparations for a census awareness kickoff event during Pioneer Days. The public is invited to attend and share their ideas for reaching the local population and informing residents of the importance of the upcoming census count.

Each year more than \$300 billion in federal funds are made available to states and cities like Twentynine Palms for community programs and services, based on population. Accurate census data is needed for funding schools, roads, libraries, social services, public health and safety, and for attracting businesses and jobs to the area.

“This census will be especially important for the City, considering the current state of the economy and cutbacks in state and regional funding,” said committee chair Vickie Waite. “We need an accurate population count to obtain our share of future federal funds for community projects and infrastructure improvements, and we need to inform all our local residents of the importance of filling out and mailing back their census questionnaire.”

The 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in the history of the U.S., dating back to the nation’s first census in 1790. The 2010 Census will ask for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether the householder owns or rents their home. The census form will take only about 10 minutes to complete, and answers are protected by law and strictly confidential. Questionnaires are expected to be mailed or delivered to all households and living quarters in the area beginning in March 2010.

Sample census questionnaires will be available at the Complete Count Committee meeting on Oct. 1, and plans will be discussed for hosting a census information booth in Luckie Park during Pioneer Days, Oct. 15-18.

For more information, contact Vickie Waite at City Hall, 760-367-6799.

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