



**VOLUSIA COUNTS.
EVERYBODY COUNTS.**

Faith Based/Churches Subcommittee Minutes September 15, 2009

The first meeting of the Faith Based/Churches Subcommittee for the Volusia County Census Committee, was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, at the Volusia County Fire Station # 15, Fire Service Training Room, Indian Lake Road, Daytona Beach. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. with the Committee Chairperson Gwen Azama-Edwards and member Pam Hamlin in attendance. The following actions were taken and discussions occurred:

--Pam Hamlin reported on actions taken/and requests made of our subcommittee by the Census Committee at their September 10 meeting, which she attended representing this subcommittee in place of the Chair who cannot meet on Thursdays due to job conflicts (live radio show she hosts).

--Marketing Subcommittee requests and actions to date. I had touched base with the Marketing subcommittee liaison to our subcommittee, Stephanie Redd, and advised her of our meeting. She and other liaisons should be advised of our meeting dates, time and location. We discussed the web site and information available via the site. PR materials that have been developed for use thus far. Though there was a suggestion to add a Faith-Based symbol or wording to the PR materials so churches and others would know it came from our subcommittee, we feel it would be less costly and more consistent to use the PR materials as is, so that the same message is received, and materials can be utilized no matter the source. The Logo and PR materials developed thus far were well received and the work done thus far by the Marketing Subcommittee received praise by our subcommittee as well. We were asked to share with this subcommittee what our needs would be. Though this is difficult to determine at this time due to our not knowing the total number of churches or the extent to which other Faith-based groups or organizations may want to be involved--we did develop a preliminary list of PR needs as follows for the involvement of the groups noted:

1) FAITH Group - Initially we said we would request 2,000 each of the available fliers; and 200 posters, for their membership. We wanted to provide this material to the staff of FAITH to provide to their membership depending upon their protocol for providing same. As Chair, I volunteered to contact FAITH Staff Director Jessica Robillard and invite her to attend our next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 6 and provide us with input as to how best we can get FAITH involved in increasing Census participation. We also request materials for the Black Clergy Alliance, which Bishop Triplett (chair of the City of Daytona Beach Faith-Based committee) is also chair of. We want 500 of each flier design for this group as well as 50 posters. Pam Hamlin will share our desire to assist the DB Committee (and other similar cities' census committees) so as not to be duplicative with resources or volunteer efforts to the extent they wish to work together (Pam serves on the DB Faith-Based Committee as well), at its upcoming meeting on September 24. NE Coast Baptists Association, 200 of each flier. 100 posters

(some of the same churches are a part of the prior groups), I will make contact with the moderator and area president for this group. We also have assignments to contact individuals who can assist us with understanding the prospect of participation by other faith based groups like the Muslims, Hispanic religious groups (we feel we need to contact Census Committee member Lisa Doig for guidance and contacts), Scientology and related. Also additional materials will be needed for special occasion/events by the churches during Black History Month in February, MLK activities in January, Easter and Christmas or related holidays; as well as during the Greek Festival held this Fall.

--We reviewed the Timelines discussed by the Census Committee as well as that provided by the Census staff for Faith-Based Committees and felt we were pretty much on schedule with what we are attempting to do.

--We discussed our action plan which includes that we: get information and contacts (with follow up) on various faith based groups and churches so as to get a good listing of those to receive mail-out letters and drop offs of materials; offer our assistance to these sites in regard to speakers to help get the word out to their congregations and like groups. We feel that mail-outs and materials should go out toward the end of the year; and then around January of next year do follow-ups with the major groups and churches, offering our help through Speaker Bureaus, etc.; and then once publicizing the contest for highest Census participation among the smallest-mid-and large churches during that initial mail out the end of the year--getting a small report from the churches by mid-April. The 3 levels of involvement are important to get all of the churches involved and give them all a chance of receiving recognition; each church assisting should get a certificate of participation, and each in order to receive something should report as to what they did to spur census participation such as copies of church programs where mentioned; when the pastor or others addresses the congregation; other activities held for this purpose.

--We discussed our meeting time and place. Tuesday is felt to be a good day to meet. There is no desire to meet at a later time; in fact it was shared that some subcommittees are meeting at an earlier time. The place of our meeting needs to be less remote, especially given the lateness of the meeting time, though we understand it may be difficult to find a place to accommodate us given the evening meeting time. We ask that our members be surveyed as to the time they are able to make the meeting and as to the proximity of the meeting location to them.

--Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, at 5:30 p.m. at a location to be secured by our meeting coordinator, Betty Holiness. We encourage all our members to attend and participate in this and future meetings of the subcommittee.

--There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen Azama-Edwards, Subcommittee Chair