

CITY OF CRANSTON
Cranston Census Complete Count Committee
Regular Meeting of February 24, 2020 – APPROVED MINUTES

The Cranston Census Complete Count Committee met on February 24, 2020, in a meeting advertised in accordance with the Rhode Island Open Meetings Act on February 19, 2020. The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Edward Garcia, at 2:14 p.m. It was held at the Cranston Central Public Library C-Lab.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edward Garcia (Chair, Cranston Public Library), Nicholas Lima (Recording Secretary, Canvassing Dept.), Joanne McGunagle (CCAP), Cpt. Carl Ricci (Cranston Police), Andrea Champagne (Cranston YMCA)

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Psilopoulos (Administration), Robert Coupe (Cranston Housing Authority), Norma Cole (School Dept.), Jeffrey Barone (Senior Enrichment Center)

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: None

The chair declared a quorum present.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 1-15-2020
- III. CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – EDWARD GARCIA
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. THE COMMITTEE MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING THE RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION CENSUS OUTREACH GRANT
 - B. THE COMMITTEE MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON STRATEGIES TO ASSIST IN ENSURING A COMPLETE COUNT IN THE CITY OF CRANSTON, INCLUDING OUTREACH, COORDINATION WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND A MARKETING CAMPAIGN
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. THE COMMITTEE MAY SCHEDULE ITS FUTURE MEETINGS
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Garcia asked for unanimous consent to approve the minutes of Jan. 15, 2020.

WITHOUT OBJECTION, PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – EDWARD GARCIA

The third meeting of the Cranston Census Complete Count Committee was called to order by the chairperson. Mr. Garcia welcomed the attendees to the Cranston Central Public Library and had them introduce themselves.

OLD BUSINESS**A. THE COMMITTEE MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION REGARDING THE RHODE ISLAND FOUNDATION CENSUS OUTREACH GRANT**

Mr. Garcia said he has not received any new information from the state Complete Count Committee regarding the Cranston Committee's revised RI Foundation grant application. If he receives any news, he will notify the Committee.

B. THE COMMITTEE MAY DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON STRATEGIES TO ASSIST IN ENSURING A COMPLETE COUNT IN THE CITY OF CRANSTON, INCLUDING OUTREACH, COORDINATION WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND A MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Mr. Garcia said it's been a little frustrating waiting for marketing materials from the state, and that he may design some in-house in the interim so the Committee can get materials out to public buildings until the state's materials are ready. He said it's been hard to just get added to the state's distribution list. He hopes things will be better organized and coordinated by March, and that the state will improve communications, particularly to local Complete Count Committees that have been formed. He said he often emails them but does not receive a response.

Mr. Garcia said he is planning multiple outreach events and wants to work with partners on the Cranston Complete Count Committee and city departments to hold them at various locations later this spring. As for social media, he said that CCAP, the Police Dept., Cranston YMCA, Senior Enrichment Center, Library, School Department, and the City have all posted 2020 Census information on their social media accounts and will continue to do so regularly.

Ms. Champagne discussed the possibility of setting up a table or outreach event at the YMCA, and offered to staff it. She said it could be set up through June. Mr. Lima said that City Hall will be open for the voter registration deadline March 29 and a table could be set up by the Committee then in the lobby, given the proximity to April 1 Census Day. Mr. Garcia said he is planning outreach events at Central Library and Hall Library, regardless of whether the City receives any grant funding from the RI Foundation. He said that, statewide, libraries will be adding census marketing information to the back of receipts.

The Committee also discussed adding census information to various newsletters, including those sent out by the Senior Enrichment Center, CCAP, YMCA, and the School Department's Friday flyers. The use of the city's robocall system was also mentioned as a possibility.

Mr. Garcia said the City Council is introducing a second resolution to pass in support of and to draw attention to the 2020 Census. He suggested that individual Council members can send census information out on their personal social media accounts and on their email mailing lists.

NEW BUSINESS

A. THE COMMITTEE MAY SCHEDULE ITS FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Garcia said the Committee should meet again in mid-March ahead of Census Day to further discuss and finalize plans for outreach. The members present agreed that March 17 at 2 p.m. at Central Library, in C-Lab, would be the best time and place to meet.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Garcia asked for unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.
WITHOUT OBJECTION, PASSED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas J. Lima
Recorder

APPROVED by the Cranston Census Complete Count Committee: July 20, 2020