



Heather M. Hudson
Mayor

CITY OF GREENVILLE

Mayor's Office

340 Main Street • P. O. Box 897 • Greenville, Mississippi 38701 • Telephone : 662-378-1501 • Fax : 662-378-1564 • E-mail : hudson@www.greenville.ms.us

Congressional Testimony for Mayor Heather McTeer Hudson

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of myself and the National Conference of Black Mayors, thank you for this opportunity to share our views of the current plans on implementing the 2010 census. My name is Heather McTeer Hudson and I serve as 2nd Vice President for the National Conference of Black Mayors. I am the mayor of Greenville, Mississippi. Our president, Mayor George Grace, could not be with us today, and I will fill his place.

First, the National Conference of Blacks Mayors is committed to working with the Census bureau to insure an accurate count for not only our member communities, but all cities, towns, and villages in the United States of America. NCBM support over 600 African American Mayors in the United States today and we serve over 60 million people nationwide. The majority of our communities has a population of less than 50 thousands minority in nature, and historically, are they very communities are experience miscalculations in the number of people that reside therein. We know all too well the impact that incorrect tallies can have on a community as many of our member communities depend greatly upon federal tax dollars for many local programs. For this reason, NCBM looks with great interest upon the LUCA (Local Update of Census Addresses) program and our role in the 2010 census process. As was stated by the deputy director of the Census Bureau, "the Census Bureau has a constitutional mandate to count everyone living in the united states, county them only once, and count them in the right place." But how can you count someone if you don't know where they are? Our commitment, if allowed, is to assist by not only showing where the people are but helping to make sure we get a proper count.

As a mayor, I can say with surety that no one knows a community better than the local officials. We know not only where the people reside, but also their patterns of movement throughout our cities. From the plans we see for housing and development, to increases and decreases in school enrollment to the transfer of local utilities, the local government is one of the best places to start in terms of gaining a working knowledge of the number of people that reside in a particular community. Option 1: we have no means to secure for small cities resources. However, with out proper resources we cannot provide this assistance. Question, such as what is an eligible LUCA city? How are they contacted? Is there any follow-up?

In closing there are three areas that should be addressed in order to insure an accurate and smooth flowing census with the full cooperation of local governments. First, all local governments must be provided the opportunity to review and update addresses for their communities. We understand that information is currently being mailed however; a more concerted effort should be made to insure every community is counted. Secondly, on the ground training of all technology, forms and processes to be used should be in place NOW in local offices. Finally, the census bureau must make some accommodations updates or what is known as dress rehearsal in 2008. This will provide vital information to both the bureau and the local government offices how well the procedures are working.