

***The 2010 Census Field Hearing
“Is Brooklyn Being Counted?”***

Monday, July 19, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Chairman Clay’s Opening Statement

I would first like to thank Chairman Towns and his staff for facilitating this hearing. I thank him and his staff for their hospitality. I am always happy to return to King’s County and the impressive, historical Brooklyn Borough Hall. Chairman Towns has provided significant leadership and support to me personally in my capacity as Chair of the Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee. Further, the Subcommittee has long recognized the significance of an accurate count in Brooklyn. A Subcommittee field hearing was held here in February, with a positive dialogue on reducing the Census undercount in group quarters.

Today, however, we seek to glean information on the problems brought to light via the Inspector General’s hotline. The falsification of documents and fraudulent completion of Census forms are serious issues and have far reaching implications. I am hopeful that Dr. Groves and Inspector General Zinser will provide to the Oversight Committee the evidence to ensure that Census 2010 enumeration is on the correct track and that effective measures were taken to mitigate the damage done by a few. King’s County is one of the hardest- to-count counties in the United States and it is crucial that the count here, and of course, all across

our great nation, is accurate and substantiated. So much is at stake- federal funds, national prominence, and legislative position. Mr. Chairman, I share your concerns and look forward to today's testimony.