

Written Testimony

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Most of the 2020 pre-Census work was managed by Cliff Cook (CDD Demographics) and myself (ITD – GIS). We worked with other departments (DPW, Elections, others) to collect data and review tasks, and our staff to do extensive address database work. Each City and Town in Massachusetts is required to provide boundary and address information to the State, and the Secretary of the Commonwealth's staff will assist. Some municipalities, including Cambridge, use this opportunity to use their in-house resources get the most accurate information to the Secretary of the Commonwealth to assure sensible census boundaries and an accurate population count.

GIS and CDD assist in these pre-Census tasks:

- Block Boundary Suggestion Program:
 - Review current Census block boundaries with an eye towards areas which have had growth with particular attention in blocks which could exceed 1000 units
 - Suggest additions or deletions of Census linework which need improvement from the 2020 final census blocks
- Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)
 - Review existing State address database and suggest additions, corrections, and deletions as well as verifying the accuracy of Cambridge addresses to the residential address dataset from the City's address repositories
 - From the last LUCA program for the 2020 Census the City:
 - Reviewed an original list of 53,694 addresses and made the following updates:
 - Added 4,775 addresses
 - Corrected 1,638 addresses
 - Deleted or flagged as non-residential or extra jurisdictional 2,053 addresses
 - Verified the accuracy of 5,846 addresses
 - Our final submission to the Census Bureau included 58,471 addresses
- New Construction Program
 - Opportunity to make further amendments to the address list shortly before the launch of the decennial census
- Participant Statistical Area Program
 - Asks us to adjust census tract geography to account for population growth
- Cambridge Outreach and Education
 - Prior to the 2020, the City worked on identifying the 'hard-to-count' population. These are persons who are children, un-homed, lower income and/or education, English language learners, undocumented immigrants, and/or racial ethnic minorities. Since the Census focuses on online responses, those without internet access are also considered hard-to-count. This Census will be particularly challenging, so we will be looking for the State to create/provide more communications resources and messaging to get people to respond.

There may be some other outreach by other City departments which I was not aware of. Cliff Cook is now retired, and as you know, Scott Walker had replaced him. Fortunately, we documented our efforts from the last Census prep.

Let me know if I can further assist you or Sen. Brownsberger.

Jeff

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