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AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: October 22, 2008
Memorandum Date: September 25, 2008

TO: LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DEPARTMENT: Legal Counsel

PRESENTED BY: Liane Richardson, County Counsel

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THAT LANE COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING A FULL AND ACCURATE CENSUS COUNT IN 2010.

I. MOTION

The Board moves to proclaim its support and commitment to ensuring a full and accurate census count in 2010.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board heard from Gladys Romero of the U.S. Census Bureau on September 24, 2008. Ms. Romero discussed the importance of an accurate census, which will be taken in April of 2010. The Board was asked to proclaim that it supported and was committed to a full and accurate census. This proclamation indicates the Board's support.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

The U.S. Census is only taken every 10 years. The Board 10 years ago formally indicated it's support of the U.S. Census and the County participated on a Complete Count Committee along with other partners in the community to ensure a full and accurate census count.

B. Policy Issues

Lane County is committed to its citizens. Ensuring that each and every one of Lane County's citizens is counted is the first step in ensuring fair representation and allocation of resources for those citizens.

C. Board Goals

Short term, the U.S. Census will provide much needed temporary jobs to citizens in our County. Longer term, the census will determine the distribution of \$300 billion annually of government funding for critical community services. The County is a full-service County, which is becoming more and more difficult to sustain. Ensuring that the County receives the funding it is entitled to will help the Board achieve it's short and long term goals for the County.

D. Financial and/or Resource Considerations

Much of the support the census will be requesting will not be monetary, but may require employee or elected official time to attend events, participate in a Complete Count Committee, etc. Such support is not required in order to proclaim support for the

Census, and each request may be evaluated at the time to determine if there are adequate resources.

E. Analysis

A complete and accurate Census will allow the County to received fair representation and allocation of resources. The actual taking of the Census will provide temporary jobs during a time when our local unemployment rate is 6%. Many decisions by the County are based, at least in part, on our understanding of the makeup and size of the communities that make up Lane County. Ensuring that every citizen in Lane County is counted in the official census is important to the future of the County.

F. Alternatives/Options

- 1) The Board could approve the proclamation
- 2) The Board could vote to not support the proclamation

IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Effective and should be publicized when signed.

V. RECOMMENDATION I recommend the Board approve the proclamation

VI. ATTACHMENTS

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO.) IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING
) THAT LANE COUNTY IS COMMITTED
) TO ENSURING A FULL AND ACCURATE
) CENSUS COUNT IN 2010
)

WHEREAS, an accurate census count is vital to our community and residents' well-being by helping planners determine where to locate schools, day-care centers, roads and public transportation, hospitals and other facilities, and is used to make decisions concerning business growth and housing needs;

WHEREAS, more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to states and communities based on census data;

WHEREAS, census data ensure fair Congressional representation by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the redistricting of state legislatures, county and city councils, and voting districts;

WHEREAS the 2010 Census creates jobs that stimulate economic growth and increase employment opportunities in our community;

WHEREAS the information collected by the census is protected by law and remains confidential for 72 years;

Now, therefore, we PROCLAIM that Lane County is committed to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help ensure a full and accurate count in 2010.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Chair, Lane County Board of
Commissioners