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THE NATION’S MAYORS WEIGH IN ON NEW CENSUS BUREAU ESTIMATES

Statement From Cincinnati, OH Mayor Mark Mallory
On Behalf of the Nation’s Mayors

Washington, D.C. -- “Today, the U.S. Census Bureau released its annual population estimates for cities across America. I am encouraging every Mayor who thinks that their city has been undercounted by even one person to file a formal challenge to their city’s estimate. With large numbers of traditionally undercounted populations including immigrants and minorities, cities must demand that every citizen is counted.

“Census estimates are vitally important for America’s cities because census data is seen as a key indicator of the health of cities and is routinely used to make both private and public sector investment decisions. In fact, it used to determine how $300 billion is distributed annually for 170 federal programs and is used in over 80% of all retail location decisions.

“Underestimates in the decennial count will result in the loss of millions of dollars that support law enforcement, housing, transportation, health care, education and job training and many other critical programs. In fact, according to a study by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, every missed person in the 2000 Census translated into a loss of $1,230 in funding to localities. And this number will only increase as we approach the 2010 Census.

“Low estimates can be challenged when cities provide additional data to the Census Bureau. In Cincinnati, I successfully challenged our population estimate in 2005, which resulted in an additional 22,000 residents being added to our population. Now, Cincinnati is realizing its third straight year of population growth after over four decades of decline.

“On behalf of the Conference of Mayors and as the lead spokesperson on the Census, I encourage all mayors to closely examine building permits, demolition permits, building conversions and other relevant information to make sure the count in his or her city is accurate and complete. In Cincinnati, we have already conducted our own population analysis and, weighing today’s Census Bureau data against ours; I will again challenge our estimate.

“As our nation moves toward the 2010 Census hard count, mayors have a once-a-decade opportunity to make sure that cities and metropolitan areas are properly counted and get a fair share of funding and commercial investment.

“The Conference of Mayors recently adopted a resolution calling for full funding of the 2010 Census and we are committed to working closely with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure an accurate count of all residents in every community.”

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