

**Charles County Census 2020 Complete Count Committee**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday, August 18, 2020**  
**10:00 am**  
**Virtual Meeting**

Attendees:

Dina Barclay, Charles County Dept. of Community Services

Jeffry Barnett, Charles County Transit (VanGo)

Mike Bellis, United Way of Charles County

Amy Blessinger, Charles County Dept. of Planning & Growth Management

Julie Bryson, County Commissioners Office

Jim Campbell, Charles County Dept. of Planning & Growth Management

Deborah Carpenter, Charles County Dept. of Planning & Growth Management

John Hartline, Tri County Council for Southern Maryland

Ryan Hicks, Town of Indian Head

Renisha Miles, Charles County Media Services

Jaelon Moaney, Senator Chris Van Hollen's office

Nikkia Powell, Department of Social Services

Robert Romero, Charles County Transit (VanGo)

Census Bureau staff:

Qwenolyn Kendle, Partnership Specialist

Lee Osberry, Jr., Partnership Specialist

State Census Office staff:

John Watson

- I. Committee Chair Amy Blessinger welcomed the members and asked them to introduce themselves.
- II. Ms. Blessinger announced that the county had exceeded our 2010 final self-response rate of 71.5%. As of August 16, the county's self-response rate was 71.9%.
- III. Lee Osberry, Census Bureau Partnership Specialist, presented updates from the Census Bureau:
  - He announced a new end date for Census response of September 30.
  - He discussed Non-Response Follow Up operations (Door to door Census takers).

- The Bureau continues to request outreach at events and locations for Mobile Questionnaire Assistance Centers (M-QACs).
  - Mr. Osberry presented the current overall self-response rate for the county, and also the Census Tracts with the lowest self-response rates. He discussed that these are the areas the committee needs to focus outreach efforts on.
- IV. John Watson, Maryland Census Office, provided Census updates from the state and encouraged continued outreach, particularly to the lowest responding areas.
- V. Ms. Blessinger discussed a Call to Action for a final outreach push to the lowest responding areas:
- She encouraged the members to promote the Census at their upcoming events – including drive-thru and virtual events. She said it would be especially helpful to have Census survey assistance at these events.
  - She provided a list of county businesses and food pantries and encouraged members to conduct outreach at these locations.
  - She invited members to request promotional materials (flyers, buttons, business cards, yard signs, etc.) to assist with outreach.