



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Mitchell Kaufman, Chair

Salvatore Gabriele, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. No quorum was present; attending were: Chair Kaufman and Committee Member Reps. Molgano and Heaphy. Absent/excused were Committee Member Reps. Gabriele, Lombardo, Sklover and Summerville. Also present was Julia Wade, Stamford Partnership.

Chair Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Item No.	Description	COMMITTEE ACTION
1. SC28.001	REVIEW; upcoming 2010 census for the City of Stamford.	J. Wade

Julia Wade reviewed the 2010 census efforts in Stamford:

- She was asked by Robin Stein to chair this year's census effort; Mr. Stein has supervised the decennial census for the last three efforts.
- April 1, 2010 is Census Day; forms will be mailed out to all households in mid March.
- Each 1% of census forms that are not returned costs between \$60 and \$80 million to the Census Bureau.
- Last spring, canvassers came into Stamford with GPS equipment and mapped every property. This information was compared to city GIS data.
- The census information is completely confidential. The information is kept on separate, secure servers with serious financial and other penalties for violating confidentiality. The information is not shared with immigration authorities, the IRS or any other state or federal agencies.
- \$400 billion in funding per year is allocated using census data. This translates to about \$5 billion for the State of Connecticut and \$1.5 billion for Fairfield County. Census data is used for funding many

efforts: transportation, free/reduced lunch programs, hospital building, senior centers, Section 8 housing, etc.

- The regional census office is in Bridgeport.
- Ten years ago, 67% of households returned the census form. Ms. Wade is hopeful the rate can be improved this year.
- Ms. Wade is working with social service agencies, asking them to educate their clients as to the importance of filling out the census forms.
- Ms. Wade is also working with neighborhood organizations, community centers, churches, corporations; they have paid for advertising on busses and literature drops. They are working with the African American and Latino communities.

Rep. Heaphy stated that she is concerned that the message that the census is for everyone did not appear to be highlighted in the presentation. Ms. Heaphy stated that the census is a constitutionally-mandated effort that will tell Americans who we are and that the census is about counting all of us. The census is not only about allocating social benefits or other government spending; it is about assisting us in understanding the profile of our country. The census effort should serve all of us, and we need to be careful about getting that message out.

Ms. Wade replied that she is coming to the Board and asking assistance in reaching middle Stamford. While the community agencies and not-for-profits are able to connect her to certain populations, it is those residents who may not be affiliated with social service agencies, community organizations and the like that the representatives can help reach.

Ms. Wade requested that representatives notify those in their neighborhoods of the importance of the census. For example, when she requested a list of neighborhood groups in the 13th District, Rep. Day sent an email to those groups urging their cooperation in getting information out about the census and alerting them to the fact that Ms. Wade would be contacting them in this regard.

Rep. Molgano suggested that representatives use the postage allowance for a mailing in each district.

Committee members present were in favor of the resolution that was proposed, signed by the Mayor and awaiting Board President Skigen's signature. However, the members felt a vote of the Committee was in order. As such, the item was held over to February 1, 2010 at 6:45 p.m. (immediately prior to the board meeting).

Ms. Wade distributed a census package to each member present and promised to deliver 40 more to the Board Office prior to the February Board meeting. She requested all representatives endeavor to make their constituents aware of the census: ideas included using the census logo (which is linkable to the census

website) on his/her email and/or notifying neighborhood groups that she will be contacting them, as Rep. Day has already done (see census logo with link below).



Chair Kaufman advised that he would not be in attendance at the February board meeting. He requested that Ms. Heaphy present the State & Commerce Committee report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Kaufman, Chair