

**New York State Complete Count Commission Public Hearing – Queens County
Testimony delivered by Roslin Spigner
May 1, 2019**

Good Evening Commissioners and Distinguished Guests:

I am Roslin Spigner, a member of the Queens Borough President's Complete Queens Count Committee. I represent Queens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a non-profit organization. Our national organization has over 300,000 college-educated women. The Queens Alumnae Chapter has 230 members. I hold the position of Social Action Co-Chair.

I am a native New Yorker who resides in Queens Village. A registered voter since age 18. Participated in every Census count I can remember. My civic and community participation is long and varied which includes holding the elected position of district leader 33 Assembly District Part A

The district I reside in, Congressional District 5, is predominately African American, African Caribbean, and middle-class. Our property taxes range from \$7000-\$9000, yet I reside in a hard to count district. We lost much-needed funding to our district. Our schools rate poorly. Supermarkets are replaced by Dollar Trees and Dollar Generals. There is much-needed funding for transportation, small businesses. Black media we can trust and other necessities.

Ours is a hard to count district because African Americans have a history of not being comfortable with sharing information. History has proved that the federal government and other agencies have not always played fair with Black people and we are at risk of losing a congressional district here in Queens.

I would love to see those in my district overturn the tradition of not being counted to being counted. As one who enjoys a hobby conducting genealogy/family research, it is exceedingly important for future generations to be able to see their ancestors listed on the Census. Proof of who they were, what they did and where they lived.

Respectfully submitted,

Roslin Spigner