

**TESTIMONY OF KEVIN J FORRESTAL**  
**NY STATE COMPLETE COUNT COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019**

Good Evening, Commissioners. My name is Kevin Forrestal and I speak as President of the Queens Civic Congress and as a member of the Community Board 8 Queens subcommittee of the Queens Complete Count Committee. The Queens Civic Congress is an umbrella organization representing over 100 civic organizations in Queens.

I have been repeatedly stressing the vital importance of the 2020 census to our members and urging them to do the same to their members. At our April meeting, I used Dr. Salvo's Power Point presentation made to the Complete Count Committee. I am confident that our members will follow through admirably.

Community Board 8 has created an Ad hoc Complete Count Committee. Its membership initially mirrors the CB 8 Complete Count Subcommittee but, in time, it will expand. We will seek others who will assist by being liaisons to specific groups. An example would be that an individual could be a point person to a religious community where he or she is a member.

At our April Queens Complete Count Committee meeting we separated into groups organized by Community Boards or geography. This logical approach tasks the members with identifying target organizations serving the designated catchment zones. I believe that this approach needs to be expanded to accommodate trans-borough and citywide efforts and communities. We need to identify all populations and ensure that there is effective outreach to all communities. A fact that raises concern to me is that in Queens, we have 200 different languages spoken. I do not believe that we have representation or outreach to that many groupings on our committee. When we organize a plan for identifying targets and allocating assets to address them, we think in terms of vertical and horizontal lines connecting boxes. I suggest that we need to rethink this paradigm. We need to think in terms of a matrix.

There is a need to have an entity to oversee and coordinate all the subcommittees and view the total effort. Susie and Tim started this process with their conference call on Monday, but there needs to be a more robust approach. It is too much for the two of them to do.

We need to share and coordinate our efforts. By sharing each of the six groups' efforts, we can adopt their best ideas. Likewise, if the commission would share the best practices that they have found at their Public Hearings, others can adopt them. This should be done monthly.

I believe we have had a good start and that we have a dedicated committee that will accomplish our goals over tremendous obstacles. I thank the commissioners for coming tonight and for hearing our testimony.