



PEER: Progressive East End Reformers

a chapter of New York Progressive Action Network
PEERSouthFork@gmail.com * 631.953.7746

April 12, 2019

re: New York State's 2020 Census Commission's Public Hearing

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for giving the community the chance to speak up for a fully-funded, comprehensively-counted 2020 Census. Input from local groups on the ground is essential to this critically important undertaking.

PEER, Progressive East End Reformers, is a chapter of the statewide organization, NY Progressive Action Network (NYPAN). Our 900+ members and associates live on the twin forks of Long Island, a region with a growing diversity of population and great income disparity. Our population is geographically spread out and struggles with less than adequate public transportation and social services.

A complete count in the 2020 census will help our community get the funding it needs for these programs and others. Properly funded social services are the backbone of a healthy community. Without them small challenges can spiral into greater problems, ultimately at much greater cost to individuals, the community and the state.

PEER urges the commission to advocate to our Governor for a *substantial* increase in funding for census outreach, and to make the funds available as soon as possible. We hope it is clear to all the commissioners that at this moment in time, more than ever, many of our neighbors and friends are frightened to speak to strangers or unknown officials for fear of grave consequences. This is certainly a reality in our community. We need trusted, local community organizations to conduct outreach for the 2020 Census, in order for it to be a success. Without the participation of all New York residents we will fail our democratic responsibility to treat all peoples and all communities throughout the great state of New York equally.

Let us learn from the under count of Immigrant communities, low-income communities of color, and children that happened in 2010. Let us provide the necessary resources to achieve a complete count in Census 2020.

PEER urges the commission to seek a substantial increase in 2020 Census funding and a wise allocation of those funds to local, trusted organizations. Thank you for taking this message back to our Governor.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Szoka, co-chair