

The Honorable Body
North Tonawanda City Hall
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

September 26th 2019

RE: Creation of a North Tonawanda Complete Count Committee

Every 10 years the United States Government must complete a thorough population count, a very difficult task. The accuracy of the population count in North Tonawanda is crucial to the security of federal funding and fair representation in Congress. The U.S. Census Bureau has dedicated a representative to our area, Joe Sarzyniak, whom I've had the pleasure of meeting with and discussing the process ahead. To help us help ourselves, I've found that NYS has created a Complete Count Commission that advocates for creation of networks within communities called Complete Count Committees.

A Complete Count Committee (CCC) helps the U.S. Census Bureau, and in our case Mr. Sarzyniak, plan and implement targeted efforts that address the needs and requirements of a successful count in North Tonawanda. The goal of a CCC is to include a makeup of a diverse range of organizations and have representation from each major racial and ethnic group within our community, as well as representatives from "hard-to-count" groups – groups of people that are less likely to self-report to the bureau and will need additional outreach.

The goal of the committee is to motivate our community to self-respond by educating the public about the significance of the census, informing our community of census activities and timelines, to involve the community in awareness activities, and ultimately increase the response rate to the 2020 census. Attached to this letter you will find a drafted resolution that creates a North Tonawanda Complete Count Committee (NTCCC) that will serve the purposes mentioned above, as well as serve as a liaison for Mr. Sarzyniak to ensure clear paths of communication between the city and the Census Bureau without extensive use of taxpayer funded means.

The census is a great opportunity for North Tonawanda to help itself by making sure the count is as accurate as possible and this committee will help ensure that we make the most of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin J. Tylec". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "T".

Austin J. Tylec
Alderman-at-Large

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN-AT-LARGE AUSTIN TYLEC

RE: Creation of a Complete Count Committee

WHEREAS, Article I, Section II of the Constitution mandates that the government is afforded a single opportunity each decade to calculate its population; and

WHEREAS, the data collected by the census determines the apportionment, the number of seats each state has, in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the information collected is used for the allocation and distribution of more than \$675 billion of federal funds to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 census will directly impact housing, education, transportation, employment, healthcare, and public policy within our community; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 census faces several challenges including the creation and use of the first online census in areas where most households have internet access, 4 million “hard-to-count” residents who are residents that are not expected to self-respond without proper outreach from trusted community members and organizations, and the necessity of alternative means of recording, such as areas with a large number of seasonal homes who will be directly contacted by a Census Bureau employee; and

WHEREAS, a Complete Count Committee (CCC) serves as a driving force of the Census Bureau that serves to plan and implement local, targeted efforts that address the special needs of a community; and

WHEREAS, a successful CCC needs consist of a diverse range of organizations and have representation from each major racial or ethnic group within a community, as well as representatives from other hard-to-count groups; and

WHEREAS, CCCs serve an array of purposes, such as holding public events across NYS that gain public input and provide a platform for communities to hear from Census experts and advocates; and

WHEREAS, a successful and accurate record of the population of North Tonawanda serves as a crucial catalyst for federal representation and funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the North Tonawanda Common Council shall establish a North Tonawanda Complete Count Committee (NTCCC); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NTCCC shall serve the purpose of a liaison between the municipality and the U.S. Census Bureau; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NTCCC shall work with community networks to overcome the obstacles facing Census Bureau and 2020 census such as fulfilling the need to inform households of the changes to enumeration and the online accessibility of the 2020 census, facilitating outreach to areas populated with “hard-to-count” residents, and informing residents in areas where the Bureau will be contacting them in person as opposed to by mail to expect a visit and be prepared to complete the hand-delivered questionnaire once it is received; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NTCCC shall be comprised of a diverse slate that represent every demographic of our community, including but not limited to any local organization and non-profit representatives, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce, a representative from the local chapter of the NAACP, a representative of the School board, a representative of the Youth and Recreational Department, a Teachers Union representative, a representative from the Webster St. Merchants, a City Senior Center representative, and a representative from the U.S. Census Bureau; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the aforementioned individuals shall serve in a volunteer capacity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon the resignation of a volunteer, the entity being represented shall have the authority to select a replacement; and

RESOLVED, that the NTCCC shall terminate on April 1, 2021, subsequent to the completion of the Census Bureau’s delivery of redistricting counts to the states in March 2021.