

African American Mayors Association Census 2020 Resolution

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution requires the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct an accurate enumeration of all persons residing in the United States every ten years (the “Census”); and

WHEREAS, billions of dollars in federal funding is distributed to state and local communities annually for healthcare, community development, housing, education, transportation and other critical services based on the decennial Census; and

WHEREAS, Census data collected is used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives, as well as, the redistricting of federal, state and local legislatures; and

WHEREAS, the decennial Census has not included a U.S. citizenship question since 1950, prior to the enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a citizenship question to the census survey will threaten the Census Bureau’s ability to conduct an inclusive and accurate account of all persons residing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a citizen question in the Census is alarming for diverse communities of U.S. citizens and immigrant members, which we acknowledge will ultimately reduce census response rates as the Census Bureau has noted in the past; and

WHEREAS, a citizen question will impact the availability of resources for Latino and Afro-Latino communities, as well as, African diaspora and Asian immigrant communities due to massive undercounting; and

WHEREAS, communities across our nation cannot afford to be invisible, uncounted, underserved and under resourced for the next decade; and

WHEREAS, U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman ruled against the current Administration’s addition of a U.S. citizenship question to the 2020 census survey.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the African American Mayors Association urges the Secretary of Commerce to uphold the U.S. District Court’s decision to reject the Department of Justice’s request to include a citizenship question on the Census questionnaire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association will support the efforts of the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct an accurate and comprehensive reporting of the population which reflects the growing diversity of racial and ethnic groups.