

Talk With Census Takers

Published: Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 3:34 a.m.

The next few months will focus on the hard-to-count citizens as census takers visit nonresponsive homes in the door-to-door enumeration. In my experience as a 2010 Sunshine Census partner and as an Asian-American, I know many members of Florida minority populations fear participating in the census, as well as answering their door for census takers.

This letter is a call to action for those who understand how important census data is to our communities. Spread the word to family and friends who did not mail back a census form: Tell them they still have a chance to be counted by talking with a census taker, and that they do not need to be afraid as long as they know the guidelines below to protect themselves.

The state's Sunshine Census effort - www.SunshineCensus2010.com - reminds us that census takers will carry an official government badge with their name and a "U.S. Census Bureau" shoulder bag. They will never ask to enter your home and will only ask the 10 quick questions on the census. Visit www.2010census.gov to contact your regional census centers if you are still unsure of a census takers identity.

If members of your family or friends do not speak English, census takers are prepared to identify the person's language and assign a new census taker accordingly. Census takers take an oath to protect all data collected.

Surveys like the 2010 census are our opportunity to speak out for the needs of our communities. Participate, it's not too late.

DR. KIMI SPRINGSTEEN

President

Asian American Coalition of Florida

Asian American Affairs Liaison

Hillsborough County Commission

Tampa

Copyright © 2010 TheLedger.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.