

Consumer Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs wants Consumers to Beware of Census Scams

With the 2010 U.S. Census under way, the County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs is alerting residents to be aware of scam artists who will attempt to use this opportunity to gain your money or identity.

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to be conducted every ten (10) years. The Census helps determine federal aid and assistance to communities. Participation by residents of the United State is required.

Tips on How to Spot Census-Related Scams:

- **The Census Bureau does NOT conduct the 2010 Census via the Internet**
- **The Census Bureau does NOT send emails about participating in the 2010 Census**
- **The Census Bureau NEVER:**
 - o Asks for your full social security number
 - o Asks for money or a donation
 - o Sends requests on behalf of a political party
 - o Requests PIN codes, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.
- **Report any fraudulent activity to ITSO.Fraud.Reporting@census.gov.**

On Friday, March 19, 2010, Summit County Executive Pry and County Council President Poda announced the opening of a U.S. Census Questionnaire Assistance Center in the Ohio Building, 175 South Main Street on the 4th floor atrium. A census worker will be available from 11 am to 2 pm, Monday - Friday until April 19 to answer questions from the public.

"Completing and mailing back a census form is the easiest and most efficient method of participating in the 2010 U.S. Census," stated Summit County Executive Russell M. Pry. "Participation through this process is easy, important and safe."

The U.S. Census Questionnaire Assistance Center in the Ohio Building is one of fifty information booths strategically positioned throughout Summit County.

"With the safeguards in place, I encourage everyone to complete and return the 2010 Census form because every person not counted in the 2010 Census represents \$1,200 to \$1,400 lost annually in federal funding to our communities," said Summit County Council President Jon Poda.

For more information on the 2010 Census, including answers to questions, please visit the U.S. Census Bureau's website at <http://www.census.gov>.