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Incorporated December 23, 1839

Mayor David S. Eady
City Manager Matthew Pepper
City Clerk Marcia Brooks

February 25, 2020

Dear Fellow Resident,

On April 1st, 2020, all who are living in the United States are encouraged to participate in the decennial (10-year) census conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Our goal is to make sure each Oxford resident is accurately counted. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information about the 2020 Census, including how to submit your information and the benefits our community receives from your participation.

The Census Background:

This year, the census includes nine questions. These questions focus on how many people live in your home and basic information about each person, like their sex, age, and race. The federal government uses this information to produce statistics on the nation's people and economy. By law, your responses are kept strictly confidential and cannot be used against you in any way.

Why It Is Important to Participate:

On a local level, how many people we have living in Oxford affects how much money we receive to provide services to our residents. For example, money from Newton County's Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is distributed to the county and the cities based on our respective populations. We received nearly half a million dollars in SPLOST funds to help build Asbury Street Park. This is just one example of the importance of these funds in creating a valuable amenity that brings our city together.

In addition, we use sales tax revenues to fund services for public safety, parks and recreation, sanitation, and street maintenance. These vital services contribute to making Oxford a safe and welcoming place for all who live and visit here.

How to Participate:

In March, you will receive an invitation in the mail to complete the 2020 Census form. You will have three options to respond: online, by phone, or by mail. You will be able to submit your information beginning mid-March through April 8th. If you have not responded by April 8th, you will receive a reminder postcard and a paper questionnaire. This notice is different than the request you may have received to complete the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

We will have printed materials about the 2020 Census at City Hall and posted on our website (oxfordgeorgia.org) and Facebook page. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Matthew Pepper, City Manager, at (770) 786-7004.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

David S. Eady
Mayor, City of Oxford