



NEWS RELEASE

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Complete Count Committee established to assist with Census 2010 awareness

Henry County and the City of Martinsville have formed a Complete Count Committee to create awareness of the 2010 Census.

Henry County representatives on the committee are Tim Hall, Melany Stowe, Paula Burnette, Max Hall, and Brian Hairston. City of Martinsville representatives are Stanley Grant, Ethel Johnson, Gloria Hylton, and Lardenia Campbell. The creation of the committee was authorized by Martinsville City Council and the Henry County Board of Supervisors, and members were selected by the respective staffs.

The Committee's purpose is to bring awareness to the 2010 Census and the importance of being counted. Census Day is April 1, 2010, and all addresses in Martinsville and Henry County should receive their Census forms in the mail prior to that date.

"It is vitally important that everyone be counted," Hall said. "Each person counted could potentially mean more federal and state money for projects in Martinsville and Henry County. That translates into more opportunities for the community."

The 2010 Census form has been simplified so that most households can complete it in about 10 minutes. By law, none of the data on the form can be released to any other state or federal agency.

"Census employees can serve up to five years in prison and pay a fine up to \$250,000 if they release any personal information on anyone," Hall said. "The only requirement is that the data must be released to the President of the United States by December 31, 2010, and even then it's just numbers – no names, no personal information."

The Complete Count Committee will work over the next few weeks to create awareness of the Census. Members are available to speak to civic groups, church groups, neighborhood associations, and media outlets. Please contact Tim Hall at 634-4605 if you are interested in having a committee member speak to your group.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.2010census.gov; www.henrycountyva.gov; or www.martinsville-va.gov.

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