

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: February 2, 2009

SUBJECT: U.S. Census Bureau Request for Classroom/Office Space

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Letter from Area Census Manager

SUMMARY OF REQUESTS:

The Planning Department has been working with the Census Bureau in preparation for the 2010 Census. The most accurate Census count for Henderson County is desired as it affects many issues including federal and state revenues to the County.

Much work is already underway for the 2010 Census. Local Census officials are about to begin one of the most labor intensive steps of the counting process. This involves locating and recording every housing unit in the County. For this effort, the area Census office is hiring several hundred temporary employees and needs space for recruiting, testing and training. Sharon Lewis, of the Asheville Census Office, has requested to use space at the King Street Building. A classroom and an office are requested for this effort and to provide a local place for Henderson County residents to obtain information or help regarding the Census. Two rooms can be provided on the main floor past the Code Enforcement offices. Having a local office for recruitment may provide more employment opportunities for Henderson County residents.

Staff has considered the request and has identified the two rooms that could be used by the Census Bureau until September 2010.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff request the Board approve or deny the request for classroom and office space on a temporary basis for the Census Bureau.

Suggested Motion: I move that the Board approve the use of space in the King Street Building for the Census Bureau on a temporary basis through September 2010.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. Census Bureau
Asheville Local Census Office
128 Bingham Rd. Suite 600
Asheville, NC 28806

January 8, 2009

Mr. Anthony Starr, AICP
Planning Director
Henderson County Planning Department
100 North King Street
Hendersonville, NC 28792

Dear Mr. Starr,

It was a pleasure to meet with you yesterday and discuss ways for us to partner and ensure a complete count for the 2010 Census in Henderson County.

I appreciate your offer to reconfigure the office space you showed me in your building into a space we could use for testing applicants and training new hires. As we discussed, we need the space set up in 'classroom' style with tables and chairs sufficient to test/train between 20-25 people at a time.

As we will begin hiring personnel for our first major field operation on February 1st, the sooner we can begin utilizing that space, the better. Because Census operations will be ongoing between now and the end of September 2010, and because of the attrition and concomitant recruiting and training we know will occur during that time frame, we would like to be able to use that space until then.

Additionally, we would gladly accept your offer of a small office space accessible to the public in which we can set up and staff a Questionnaire Assistance Center with a 'Be Counted' program from February-April of 2010 to assist Henderson County residents after the Census Bureau mails the Census questionnaire.

I look forward to hearing from you about when we can begin using the testing/training space.

Sincerely,

Sharon A. Lewis
Local Census Office Manager
828-239-1132
Lcom.lco.2819@census2010.gov

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