



Agenda Report

February 24, 2020

TO: City Council

FROM: Mayor Terry Tornek

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION PLEDGING TO MONITOR 2020 CENSUS DATA COLLECTION FOR BREACHES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND TO DEFEND THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE 2020 CENSUS AGAINST ANY BREACH OR THREATENED BREACH

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the action proposed is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as it will not have a potentially significant environmental effect and, therefore, falls under the General Rule exemption; and
2. Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing to monitor 2020 Census Data Collection for Breaches of Confidentiality.
3. Authorize the Mayor to send letters to appropriate entities notifying of the adoption.

BACKGROUND:

It is essential that there be a complete and accurate count of all households in the City of Pasadena during the upcoming 2020 census. Unfortunately, there is a general mistrust of government among various groups of citizens and non-citizens in the immigrant community, as well as other hard to count community members, that may make it difficult to ensure a full count of Pasadena residents. The consequence of an undercount could result in a loss of federal funding for important City programs and services, as well as a reduction in local representation in Congress. At the February 10, 2020 City Council meeting, Pablo Alvarado from the National Day Laborers Organizing Network brought forth a suggested policy statement on this issue in the form of a resolution, which, by consensus of the City Council, was directed to return as an agenda item for consideration.

The City Council is asked to adopt this resolution, to formalize the City's policy on census data protection and bolster confidence in the community that it is safe to respond to the census questionnaire. If adopted, the City Council pledges the following:

1. To monitor for any breach of census data confidentiality;
2. To use the City Council's collective power and influence to prevent, block, and/or bring an end to any breach of the currently established guarantee and understanding of the confidentiality of data collected as part of the 2020 census;
3. To emphasize publically the critical importance of continued census safety and security.

Additionally, the City Council is affirming its commitment to use transparency, publicity, investigation, and/or litigation to challenge any breach or threatened breach in order to ensure that all Pasadena residents can remain assured that personally identifiable census data will not be misused and will remain confidential as required by Title 13. protections.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This action aligns with the City Council's adopted policies to support and promote the quality of life and local economy; and ensure public safety, as well as maintain fiscal responsibility and stability. This action also supports the City's stated values of responsiveness, honesty and integrity, accountability, open, clear and frequent communication, and diversity and inclusiveness.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the common sense exemption of CEQA which applies to projects that do not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with adoption of this resolution, as all referenced monitoring activity can be conducted by existing City staff.

Respectfully submitted,


Terry Tornek, Mayor