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Public Safety and the 2010 Census

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – The constitutionally-mandated 2010 Census Count has begun its tally across Alaska. The Department of Public Safety is making an effort to reassure the people of Alaska that the census count is an entirely confidential undertaking. The ONLY information passed on from the process is the final population counts of communities.

The Alaska State Troopers, as well as its federal and municipal counterparts, will receive no personal information from the tally. This means regardless of having a legal issue such as a warrant, child custody or immigration status, a person can be completely honest with census workers without fear of any action being taken against them.

The census directly benefits Alaskans by accurately counting our communities populations. This helps agencies, like the Department of Public Safety (DPS), to allocate the services and staff necessary to keep you safe and your community strong. Grant funding, as well as state and federal dollars, is often contingent upon population distribution and density.

Population counts will also allow DPS to take a critical look at the placement of department resources and personnel. Depending on the needs of communities and the amount of incidents within a population, resources can be stationed based on confirmed data counts rather than an anecdotal perception.

“Your participation in the census will help us to appropriately allocate our troopers and resources across the state,” said Joe Masters, Commissioner of Public Safety. “This allows us to keep you safe and your community strong.”

Your participation in filling out and returning the questionnaire mail-outs will help save millions of tax payer dollars. Every percentage point of questionnaires not returned will cost the Americans \$80 to \$90 million. Those dollars potentially could go toward law enforcement or highway safety-related projects instead.