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## **Informational Alert – January 2010**

by Stacie Harris, Economic Crimes Unit

### **Census 2010 - Safety Tips**

Every 10 years, the US Census Bureau conducts a count of everyone living in the United States. You are legally obliged to answer their questions.

In March 2010, a mailing will be sent out to you. If you do not complete and return the form, a second form will be mailed out to you. If you still fail to respond, the US Census Bureau will send a Census Bureau employee out to knock on your door to obtain that information.

The inquiry will be about every person living at each address. This information will include names, ages, genders, race, ethnic origins, birth dates, marital status, employment status and other relevant data.

You do need to be aware that there will be some out there that have nothing to do with the US Census Bureau. These are the people that are attempting to take advantage of the situation to obtain your personal identifying information for their own personal gain.

So how can you tell if the person you're dealing with face-to-face, on the phone or by mail is in fact with the US Census Bureau?

Here are some guidelines:

- You will NEVER be asked to divulge your social security number or any other confidential, personal information like your bank account and/or credit card numbers.
- You will NEVER be asked for money or told that you owe money.
- The Census Bureau will not collect data by email or through online websites. They will not ask you to click a link or attachment.
- All Census workers will carry official identification, a confidentiality notice and more often than not, a handheld computer.
- No Census worker will ask to come into your home, nor should you ever invite them to do so.

If you feel uneasy about any US Census Bureau documents, phone calls or emails that you may or may have received and would like to ask more questions, or if you would like to verify the employment of a Census Bureau employee, a local office has been set up here in Pueblo at 421 North Main Street. Their phone number is 546-6354.

To locate a regional Census Bureau office in another location, please visit their website at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).