_CENSUS NEWS BRIEF_

**CENSUS DIRECTOR, DEPUTY BOTH ANNOUNCE RESIGNATIONS**

PLUS: _2007 census funding still in limbo, and more._

Census Bureau Director Charles Louis Kincannon and Deputy Director Hermann Habermann announced their resignations yesterday. Mr. Kincannon said in a letter to the President that “shifting priorities make it time for me to retire,” citing “changing family responsibilities.” He also told _The Washington Post_ (11-15-06, p. A19) that, "My perception is that I don't have the same level of trust that I did a year or so ago. The relationship has changed, and that relationship I regard as essential."

Dr. Habermann, a career civil servant, did not issue a statement. Neither the White House nor the Commerce Department (the Census Bureau’s parent agency) has commented on the resignations. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez is on a trade mission in China this week.

Mr. Kincannon told the President that he would remain as Census director until his successor is confirmed by the Senate. He was nominated in November 2001 and confirmed in March 2002. (The President announced his intention to nominate Mr. Kincannon in July 2001.) Mr. Kincannon, who began his government career at the Census Bureau in 1963, served as the agency’s deputy director from 1982 – 92 and twice as acting director. He also was the first Chief Statistician in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris.

In his November 14 resignation letter, Mr. Kincannon cited three accomplishments during his tenure as director:

- The conclusion by “technical staff” that statistical methods the bureau had developed over several decades to adjust the census counts to reduce the differential undercount of minorities, would not “improve the census.” The director noted that extensive documentation about this decision was available for his successor.
- Full implementation of the American Community Survey, which will replace the traditional census long form.
- Planning for a short form-only census in 2010 that will rely on increased automation to contain costs.

Dr. Habermann was named deputy director, a career civil service position, in September 2002. He previously served as director of the United Nations’ Statistics Division, overseeing
global cooperation in data collection and statistical methodology. He also spent ten years at
the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, including service as the Chief Statistician. Dr.
Habermann began his public service career at the U.S. Forest Service in 1970. He will step
down from the Census Bureau in January, according to media reports.

In a written statement, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), a member of the House Subcommittee
on Federalism and the Census, called the dual resignations “unprecedented” and warned that
the Census Bureau “is in turmoil” and that “the accuracy of the 2010 Census is absolutely in
jeopardy.” “Changing management at a time like this is very dangerous,” Rep. Maloney said.
The congresswoman said the timing “makes you wonder if there is more to the story,” and
suggested that Congress should investigate the reasons for the resignations. She called on
President Bush to nominate quickly “an eminently qualified statistician” to head the Census
Bureau.

2007 census funding still unsettled: The 109th Congress, which reconvened this week for
its post-election “lame duck” session, must still complete action on the majority of funding
bills for Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07), including the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce
Appropriations measure (H.R. 5672). This week, legislators are expected to complete their
leadership elections and to pass a second Continuing Funding Resolution for the fiscal year
that began on October 1, before recessing until the first week in December. The House of
Representatives approved the Commerce appropriations bill in June; the full Senate has not
taken up the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill passed by the Senate
appropriations panel in July.

The first Continuing Resolution in September provided that agencies whose appropriations
bill had only passed the House would be funded at the level in the House bill or the Fiscal
Year 2006 level, whichever is lower. The House allocated $815.7 million for the Census
Bureau, an increase of $14 million over 2006 but $58.3 million below the President’s 2007
request for the agency. Senate appropriators allocated $828 million for the Census Bureau,
$50 million below the President’s request.

At a July hearing of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and
Commerce, Census Director Kincannon told lawmakers that the House funding bill would
force the agency to abandon plans to use GPS-equipped handheld computers for field data
collection, a change that could increase the life-cycle cost of the census by almost $1 billion.
The director noted that House-passed cuts in Census Bureau funding primarily affected 2010
census planning activities, leaving the bureau with little flexibility to apply the funding
reductions to non-decennial programs.

Funding at the House-passed level also could result in cancellation of group quarters coverage
in the American Community Survey (ACS), according to the director. Group quarters, which
include nursing homes, college dorms, military barracks, and prisons, were first added to the
ACS this year. “Ultimately not including the GQ population in the ACS means the ACS cannot
fully be the replacement for the long form in 2010,” the Census Bureau said in a statement
this summer.
Census stakeholder organizations, under the auspices of The Census Project, sent a letter in October to prospective House and Senate conferees on the Commerce appropriations bill, urging them to restore full funding for the Census Bureau in FY07, “to help ensure uninterrupted preparations for the 2010 census and continuation of the full American Community Survey (ACS).” The letter was signed by groups representing a wide range of data users, including local governments, science professionals, and social policy advocates. A copy of the letter is available at www.thecensusproject.org.

There are several scenarios for completing action on the remaining nine FY07 spending bills, according to senior congressional staff. Lawmakers could reach agreement on some of the appropriations measures in the lame duck session and send them to the President for signature, either separately or in a package (called an Omnibus Appropriations bill). Alternatively, Congress could fail to reach agreement on some or all of the bills and decide to let the 110th Congress finish the job. In that case, Congress would pass another Continuing Funding Resolution to cover all agencies for which a regular appropriations bill was not enacted, before adjourning sine die. The Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill historically has been among the most contentious of the funding measures.

Census Bureau moves forward on 2010 ad contract: The Census Bureau will award a contract for the 2010 Census Communications Campaign next spring, according to senior agency staff. The bureau met with industry representatives in February to discuss outreach and promotion goals and to better understand current industry practices, and issued a draft contract solicitation earlier this month. The agency expects to issue a final Request for Proposal in early 2007. A team led by Young & Rubicam won the Census 2000 advertising contract, worth about $100 million.

Census advisory committees will review 2010 content proposals at joint meeting: The Census Bureau’s advisory committees will meet on November 30 to discuss final content proposals for the 2010 census. The special one-day meeting is expected to focus heavily on the results of content testing affecting census questions on race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry. The joint meeting of the Race and Ethnic Advisory Committees, the 2010 Census Advisory Committee, and the Census Advisory Committee of Professional Associations is open to the public and will be held at Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, Maryland.