

For Immediate Release

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Lumberton, NC. The Sigma Iota Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. will host a community forum designed to educate the communities, especially the African American community, about the importance of the 2010 Census. The Theme is "Be Counted: A Series of Forums on the Importance of African American Participation in the 2010 Census." This crucial discussion is in partnership with members of the Pan-Hellenic Council (sororities & fraternities); the faith-base community, media, businesses, elected officials of city/county/state/federal government; non-profits and other individuals and community groups.

The Forum will be held Thursday, October 1, 2009 at the W. H. Knuckles Elementary School Cafeteria, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Lumberton from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The panelists leading the discussion will be introduced by John A. Campbell, Executive Director, NC Human Relations Commission, Raleigh and include NC House Rep. Garland Pierce, Commissioner Jerry Stephens, Councilman John Cantey, Jr. and U.S. Census Bureau Mrs. Patrick Clark. These individuals will discuss census outcomes; how the community will be affected if African Americans are not properly counted; how funds are allocated locally as a result of the census and what the city, county, state governments are doing to promote census participation, and how the partners can be of assistance. Ms. Patrick will discuss the census timeline; how to complete the forms; census jobs and available funds.

Other forum participants include Black Caucus President Jimmy Gilchrist; Principal Karen Floyd; Councilman Robert Jones, NAACP President Gloriesrenea Stackhouse; Lumberton Ministerial Alliance President Bishop John Walker, Connection Committee Chair Frances M. Cummings and Basileus Brenda N. Poinsette.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Theme: Be Counted: A Series of Forums on the Importance
of African American Participation in the 2010 Census

W. H. Knuckles Elementary School Cafeteria

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Lumberton, North Carolina

Thursday, October 1, 2009

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Host: Sigma Iota Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Opening Remarks/Welcome Ms. Frances M. Cummings
Connection Committee Chairperson, SIO

Invocation The Rev. Jimmy Gilchrist, Chairman
Robeson County Black Caucus

Greetings: Ms. Karen Floyd, Principal
W. H. Knuckles Elementary School
Robert Jones, Precinct 6 Chairman

Introduction of Panel The Rev. John A. Campbell, Executive Director
NC Human Relations Commission
Raleigh, North Carolina

PANELISTS

Mrs. Patrick Clark, U.S. Census Bureau Representative

NC House Representative Garland Pierce: District 48 – Robeson, Hoke, Scotland Counties

The Rev. Jerry Stephens, Robeson County Commissioners, District 1

John Cantey, Jr., Lumberton City Councilman, Precinct 5

Question & Answer Period Audience
Moderator: Mrs. Vickie Tate, Connection Committee Member, SIO

Recognition of Partners The Rev. Annie J. Ellison
.Connection Committee Member, SIO

Closing Remarks Ms. Gloriesrenea Stackhouse
NAACP President
Basileus Brenda Nesmith Poinsette
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Benediction Bishop John Walker, President
Lumberton Ministerial Alliance