



September 22, 2015

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** John H. Thompson  
Director  
U.S. Census Bureau

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Zabarsky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "Z" and "B".

**FROM:** Mark Zabarsky  
Acting Assistant Inspector General for Intellectual Property  
and Special Program Audits

**SUBJECT:** Audit of Census Bureau's Contracts Awarded Using Other Than  
Full and Open Competition

We are initiating an audit of the Census Bureau's contracts that were awarded using other than full and open competition ("noncompetitive") procedures. This is part of our risk-based oversight strategy developed to address management challenges in its procurement function. Our audit objective is to determine whether Census Bureau's contracting officials properly awarded noncompetitive contracts.

In 2009, the President issued a memorandum directing the Office of Management and Budget and all federal agencies to reduce the use of high-risk contracting authorities. Noncompetitive contract procedures constitute high risk to the government because they do not encourage lower costs obtained through competition. To ensure fair and reasonable costs to the federal government, Census Bureau contracts awarded using other than full and open competition must comply with the policies and procedures in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

We have scheduled an entrance conference on October 1, 2015, at which time we will discuss our objectives and scope in more detail. If you have any additional questions regarding this audit, please call me at (202) 482-3884 or Patrice Berry, Project Manager, at (202) 482-2941.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation during this audit.

cc: Joanne Buenzli Crane, Associate Director, Administration and Chief Financial Officer  
Michael L. Palensky, Chief, Acquisition Division  
Adam Miller, Audit Liaison