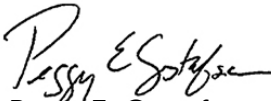




August 19, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Steven Dillingham
Director
U.S. Census Bureau

FROM: 
Peggy E. Gustafson
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Request for Information Pursuant to the Inspector General Act
of 1978, as Amended

You recently announced that the U.S. Census Bureau (the Bureau) has hired Benjamin A. Overholt, PhD, as the Deputy Director for Data.¹ The announcement states that Dr. Overholt “will support the Census Bureau in ensuring the 2020 Census data products are of the highest quality.”

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has routinely noted management and performance challenges facing the Bureau and the decennial census. Specifically, the last three *Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Commerce* reports—a statutorily required annual assessment²—designate the decennial census as the most significant challenge facing the Department.³

In order to assist OIG with its ongoing oversight of the decennial census, please transmit to my office the following information by September 2, 2020:

- Position description for the new position—i.e., the Deputy Director for Data.
- Compensation for the position.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, August 17, 2020. *Statement from Census Bureau on Deputy Director for Data*, Release Number CB20-RTQ.24. Suitland, MD: Census.

² 31 U.S.C. § 3516(d).

³ See (1) U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General, October 16, 2019. *Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Commerce in FY 2020*, OIG-20-001. Washington, DC: OIG, 1–5 (“Challenge 1: Conducting an Accurate 2020 Census Enumeration While Realizing Expected Efficiency and Estimated Cost-Effectiveness”);

(2) DOC OIG, November 14, 2018. *Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Commerce in FY 2019*, OIG-19-004. Washington, DC: OIG, 1–5 (“Challenge 1: Successfully Completing 2020 Census Testing and Systems Integration of New Innovations in Time to Deliver a Cost-Effective, Accurate Decennial Census”);

(3) DOC OIG, September 29, 2017. *Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Commerce in FY 2018*, OIG-17-033. Washington, DC: OIG, 1–6 (“Challenge 1: Delivering a Timely 2020 Census That Maintains or Improves Data Quality but Costs Less Per Household Than the 2010 Census”).

- Any analyses, studies, memoranda, justifications, correspondence, plans, budgets, or similar documents that relate to the creation of this position at the Bureau.
- Any analyses, studies, memoranda, justifications, correspondence, plans, budgets, or similar documents that relate to expectations, objectives, or goals associated with or related to the new position.
- Resume for Dr. Overholt and any assessment, analysis, correspondence, or similar documents setting forth suitability for the new position.
- Any correspondence or other documentation regarding the recruitment, interviewing, evaluation, and hiring of Dr. Overholt.
- Any agreements, contracts, letters of understanding, waivers, or similar documents related to Dr. Overholt's employment by the Bureau.
- Any financial or other disclosures made by Dr. Overholt, including, but not limited to, Office of Government Ethics (OGE) Forms 450 and 278.

In addition, you may also produce any additional documentation or information deemed relevant to this request.

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, provides the OIG with “timely access to all records” available to the Bureau.⁴ Further, you are obligated to cooperate with this request per Department policy. Department Administrative Order 213-2, § 4.03 states that “[i]t is Department policy that all employees fully cooperate with the OIG so that each inspection and evaluation may be promptly conducted and brought to an appropriate conclusion,” and that “Departmental officials shall make every effort to assist the OIG in achieving the objective of effective inspections and evaluations.” Similarly, Department Organization Order 10-13, § 4.01 states that “[t]he officers and employees of the Department shall cooperate fully with the officials and employees of the OIG and shall provide such information, assistance, and support without delay as is needed for the OIG to properly carry out the provisions of the [Inspector General] Act [of 1978].”

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 482-4661.

⁴ See 5 U.S.C. App. § 6(a)(1)(A).