City of Chattanooga

Mayor Tim Kelly

May 15, 2023

Re: Post Census Group Quarter Review

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the City of Chattanooga and is in regard to miscounts on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (UTC) during the 2020 Census. We find significant evidence that many students living in university-owned and operated housing facilities were not fully enumerated. In the interest of obtaining a more complete and accurate count of the city's residents, I request that your agency evaluate our findings under the provisions outlined in the 2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR).

This letter includes evidence substantiating a group quarter undercount on the UTC campus and includes an overview of the materials we are providing to your agency as outlined in the PCGQR Participants Guide.

As your agency noted in announcing the PCGQR program, establishing the full count of residents on college campuses during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic response was challenging. This appears to have been the case at UTC. Following Spring Break, which ran from March 9 to March 22, 2020, the university transitioned to online learning to complete the balance of the Spring 2020 semester. Most UTC students were displaced from their usual on-campus residences in accordance with university-instituted requirements. This disruption likely contributed to the incomplete student count which our submission details.

The undercount was identified using UTC resident censuses which are generated periodically throughout each academic year. UTC's procedures include a count on the 14th day of the semester (January 21, 2020) as well as an additional count midway through the semester. Counts of residents are generated by a UTC student information system. Fortunately, the university's records include a census from March 9, 2020 which is reflective of the UTC population prior to the cancellation of in-person classes. The UTC census was obtained from the Executive Director of Residential Learning and Campus Life and includes a building-level resident count. It represents a more complete and accurate accounting of UTC's group quarters residents than was reported in the 2020 Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data released on August 12, 2021.

We have identified four census tabulation blocks within the corporate limits of the City of Chattanooga where college-housing group quarter undercounts occurred. A total of seven UTC housing facilities are located within those blocks. The supporting documentation we have prepared includes block-level

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comparisons of 2020 Census results and the UTC census from March 9, 2020 and we hope will aid your agency in verifying the corrected counts which we are providing to you.

Our submission package includes both required and supplemental documentation as outlined in the participant guide. The following materials are included in our submission zip file.

Letter from Qualified Group Quarter Administrator

This letter from Valara Sample, UTC Executive Director of Residential Learning and Campus Life, details the facility-level counts captured in the university's March 9, 2020 Census. Ms. Sample's letter serves as the primary source of corrected counts for the City's PCGQR request.

Completed 2020 PCGQR Response Template

The template was obtained from your agency's website and completed according to your instructions. The address of each facility is included in the response template along with the 2020 Census tabulation block geographic identifier. Counts from the March 9, 2020 UTC census are shown in the 'GQ Population on Census Day' column.

Aerial Photograph and Block Map

To aid in verifying the location of each facility and the corresponding census tabulation block, we provide an annotated aerial photograph captured in August 2019 by Vexcel Imaging for the State of Tennessee. The maps show the UTC census total for each facility on January 21, 2020 and March 9, 2020. They also include other block-level statistics from your agency such as the population of households and group quarters as well the 2020 Address Block Count Listing data showing the number of housing units and group quarters.

Table Comparing 2020 Census Block-Level Counts and UTC Census

This table shows more detail about the 2020 Census statistics, group quarter counts, as well as the total estimated undercount of UTC facilities: 1,180 students.

For ongoing communication regarding the City of Chattanooga's PCCQR submission I authorize the following individual as the designated representative of the City of Chattanooga in this matter:

Tim Kuhn, Director, Tennessee State Data Center, Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, tkuhn@utk.edu, (865) 974-6070.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mayor Tim Kelly

Chattanooga, TN