THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
CHATTANOOGA

Housing and Residence Life
615 McCallie Avenue, Dept. 2202
Chattanooga, TN 37403
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May 15, 2023

2020 PCGQR
ATTN: GB 63-A
U.S. Census Bureau
National Processing Center
1201 East 10th Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in regard to the Post Census Group Quarter Review (PCGQR) requested by the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee. As Executive Director of Residential Learning and Campus Life at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (UTC), I offer this letter in support of the city's request for a review of group quarter counts at several of the university's on-campus housing facilities.

Students at UTC were on campus through March 6, 2020 and were then dismissed for Spring Break on March 9, 2020. Classes were scheduled to resume on March 22, 2020, However, in-person attendance at UTC was suspended over concerns relating to the emerging COVID-19 emergency. Because most students did not return to campus after Spring Break, it is apparent that a number of the university's on-campus housing facilities were not fully enumerated by the U.S. Census Bureau in the course of conducting the 2020 Census.

In my role as group quarter administrator for the university, I maintain records of the resident censuses that are routinely conducted as part of our ongoing campus operations. In close collaboration with staff from the Tennessee State Data Center, I have reviewed our resident census representing March 9, 2020. For the facilities in question, UTC's records show the following counts:

- Stagmaier Hall - 98 students
- Lockmiller Apartments (Phase I & II) - 294 students
- Decosimo Apartments- 322 students
- West Campus Housing - 510 students
- Boling Apartments - 363 students
- UC Foundation Apartments - 348 students
- Walker Apartments - 214 students

We do not find evidence of significant miscounts at other UTC housing facilities, including Johnson Obear, Stophel, and Guerry Apartments.

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To be clear, were it not for the unusual circumstances that resulted in the suspension of classes and the displacement of most students from their on-campus housing, their usual place of residence on April 1, 2020, would have been at UTC until the completion of classes on April 24, 2020, or final examinations, which concluded on May 1, 2020. In my view, UTC's March 9, 2020, Census is the most accurate count of campus residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the city's concerns, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Valara Yolanda Sample

Valara Y. Sample
Executive Director for Residential Education and Campus Life