



NEWSLETTER

It's time.
Make yourself count.

Census 2010



Operation: Recover & Restore

2010 Census Public Education & Advocacy Campaign

Moving Forward Gulf Coast, Inc. supports all those internally displaced persons who remain in the Katrina and Rita Diaspora to be restored to their rightful place in the Gulf Coast. Our work remains dedicated to various awareness campaigns focused on the continued violations of basic constitutional, civil and human rights in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricanes. The compounded result of these violations has meant the chronological progression of the depopulation of vulnerable communities throughout the Gulf Coast. Our goal in each campaign is to bring decision-makers and community members together around equitable solutions.

What is Operation Recover and Restore? Operation Recover and Restore is a twofold, regional advocacy campaign that works with residents from the Gulf Coast through the following community-based initiatives.

2010 Public Education and Awareness Campaign: The Public Educations and Awareness Campaign will focus on four (4) areas of messaging, including ways to...

- Decrease myths about the US Census in Hard to Count Communities (HTC's) and actively participate in obtaining an accurate count of vulnerable communities;
- To help establish Complete Count Committees (CCC's) in three key cities across the Gulf Coast region, including New Orleans, LA, Biloxi, MS and Mobile, AL;
- To produce messaging strategically geared toward reaching HTC's in the Gulf Coast; and
- To host and coordinate Regional Public Education and Training conference to allow Hart to Count communities to engage in conversations directly with Census Bureau Specialists.

Exceptional Count Initiative (Diaspora): The Exceptional Count Initiative advocates for along with those actively rebuilding from the hurricanes of 2005- to be counted by the US Census Bureau at their pre-storm residence. A failure to do so will result in billions of dollars redirected from the Gulf Coast and thereby forsaking the most vulnerable population from a full recovery.

- To advocate for a Congressional Oversight hearing on Gulf Coast enumeration for the 2010
- To bring advocates and displaced community members to D.C. to meet with Dr. Groves, Director Sanchez and William "Lacy" Clay to rally for support for a congressional hearing
See Clay letter here: (<http://movingforwardgc.org/181319.html>)
- To develop and advocate for national legislation that protects residents who are forced to temporarily relocate based on mandatory evacuations and/or government error in the wake of disaster.
- To increase civic participation of displaced residents actively rebuilding their lives in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**MAYOR ISN'T ASKING THE DISPLACED TO IGNORE LAW**

Friday, August 21, 2009

Re: "Counting on the Census," Your Opinions, Aug. 19, 2009.

Mayor Ray Nagin is not asking displaced citizens actively working to return to ignore the law and say they live in New Orleans. For the record, when addressing the Southern Louisiana Partnership Awareness Conference, Mayor Nagin said that the census should take a proactive stance and make provisions to ensure that these citizens, who soon will be home again, can be counted as New Orleanians.

Mayor Nagin is not alone in raising these concerns. A coalition of nearly 50 nonprofit organizations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, led by Moving Forward Gulf Coast, recently wrote to U.S. Rep. Lacy Clay, chairman of the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives. The coalition also has suggested a check-off box be added for Katrina victims currently living outside the Gulf Coast or taking another, smaller, Census count in 2011 to assure accuracy. They also have asked the Congress to hold a field congressional hearing on this issue in New Orleans.

Much is at stake for New Orleans and all of the Gulf Coast. We must assure that we receive all the money to which we are entitled in order to provide services to our citizens and those soon to return. An undercount also negatively impacts political representation and the public's perceptions of the city's recovery.

It is encouraging that the Census is making some special efforts to reach citizens. But it is not sufficient to say that provisions such as those suggested by Mayor Nagin and the thousands of citizens represented by this coalition should not be made now because they have not been made in the history of the Census. There also has never before been a Hurricane Katrina, which led to the mandatory evacuation of a major American city and scattering of citizens across the country.

Mayor Nagin is charged with working on behalf of New Orleans and its citizens, and he will continue to do so.

James D. Ross II

2010 Census - Press links:

<http://www.theadvocate.com/opinion/41189257.html>

http://blog.nola.com/letterstotheeditor/2009/04/count_all_residents_including.html

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/07/katrinass_displaced_worry_about.html

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/08/04/AR2009080402939.html><http://www.southernstudies.org/2009/07/post-36.html>

<http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/letterstoeditor/index.ssf?base/news-14/1250832810199220.xml&coll=1>

<http://www.fsrn.org/audio/four-years-after-katrina-gulf-coast-leaders-say-government-has-failed-reconstruct/5330>

Meeting & Conference Dates

April 23, 2009 - Biloxi, MS.

May 30, 2009 - Biloxi, MS.

June 8, 2009 - New Orleans, LA.

June 8, 2009 - Gulfport, MS.

June 11, 2009 - Mobile, Ala.

July 6, 2009 - Mobile, Ala.

July 11, 2009 - Conference & Training; Gulfport, MS

July 20, 2009 - New Orleans, LA.

August 18, 2009 - Census Bureau Conference; New Orleans, LA.

August 24, 2009 - Press Conference release of report by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; New Orleans, LA.

August 30, 2009 - Census Bureau Conference; Biloxi, MS.

September 22-22 - FCFS National Convening

September 21-24 - Congressional Black Caucus

October 24 - Conference & Training - New Orleans, LA. (tentative)



ADVOCACY MEDIA SERIES



As part of our mission to provide community advocacy and training, Moving Forward has established a series of media learning tools (video/DVD) to empower Gulf Coast residents with information relating to key issues in rebuilding the Gulf Coast. The Recover and Restore Series documents issues that have been identified by community groups throughout the Gulf Coast and relays solutions to residents who need it most.

EPISODE 1: Fight for Affordable Housing in New Orleans:

<http://www.nola.tv/news/267.html>

EPISODE 2: FEMA Recoupment:

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LA7sPFIUwE1>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=953qadzNHRk>

EPISODE 3: Contractor Fraud:

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prMkyZij8qc>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yizuyaHuAYw&feature=related>

EPISODE 4: Justice-Low Wage Worker Rights:

Sample 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPUDBaiokaI>

EPISODE 5: Fight for Charity Hospital

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVgBJEzsLmE&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzQCUsIXFDU>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_P9RiqkvrIE&feature=related

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LuogWv7n6Y&feature=related>

Community Media

Biloxi FEMA Trailer Evictions

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9YBHLurvEQ&feature=related>

City Council Email Controversy

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6W9zQGhQSHA&feature=channel_page

Save NO.A.H.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huvLyhPD9bY&NR=1>

Danziger Trial Update

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JS5IER3k_8&feature=related

MOVING FORWARD GULF COAST, Inc. is a community effort, led by natives of the Gulf Coast region, who have personally identified families that want, but cannot afford or lack the information, to rebuild their lives in the Gulf Coast. Our main goal is to facilitate bringing together resources dedicated to rebuilding the Gulf Coast better in partnership with the communities in need. 985.643.6186 office 985.643.6118 fax www.movingforwardgc.org info@movingforwardgc.org