



TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS POSING AS CENSUS WORKERS

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 1/12/10) – As the 2010 Census kicks into high gear, police are cautioning residents to beware of scammers posing as census workers.

In mid-March, the U.S. Census Bureau will mail out questionnaires to more than 120 million homes across the nation. Households should complete the 10-question forms as soon as possible and mail them back to the bureau by April 1, 2010.

Households that do not respond can expect a reminder by mail in late April. Those who still don't respond will receive a visit from a census taker. Census workers are canvassing neighborhoods now to verify addresses; however, in most cases census workers will not come to your home unless you fail to return the form being mailed to you in March.

Officials are cautioning homeowners to be aware of potential scammers knocking on homeowners' doors, claiming to be from the U.S. Census Bureau. Here are some safety tips that will help you avoid becoming the victim of a scam:

- * Real census workers carry identification at all times, which they must display, and have a telephone number residents can call immediately to verify their identity. Census workers also will be carrying a handheld device and Census Bureau bag, and will provide a confidentiality notice.
- * Census takers never will ask for Social Security numbers, bank account information or credit card information. Do not give out that information even if you believe the worker is really from the U.S. Census Bureau.
- * Census workers never ask for fees or donations. If someone knocks on your door and asks for money, lock the door and call the police.
- * Census workers will not contact you by e-mail. Never click on a link or open any e-mail attachment that claims to be from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Remember, U.S. law requires every household to fill out a census questionnaire and return it. Once you receive your questionnaire in March, return it as soon as possible to the address provided. Census workers will personally visit households that do not return the questionnaires.

If you are a Temple Terrace resident and you are suspicious about a solicitor claiming to represent the U.S. Census Bureau, call the Temple Terrace Police Department at (813) 989-7110.

For more information about the U.S. Census, visit www.2010census.gov or call (1-800-424-6974).