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**HAMPTON, NEWPORT NEWS BOOST CENSUS RESPONSES DURING MAYORS' CHALLENGE;
HAMPTON GETS THE WIN**

Both cities get more people to get counted in the 2020 Census

July 6, 2020 – In late May, Newport News and Hampton joined forces to encourage people to respond to the 2020 Census. The Mayors' Challenge, a friendly competition to see which city could get more residents to fill out their Census forms, ended in a close race and wins for both cities.

Each city increased the number of Census responses by 1.3% during the challenge. Since Hampton was ahead at the beginning of the competition, Mayor Donnie Tuck takes the title and is the winner of juicy James River oysters, courtesy of Mayor McKinley Price. The Hampton blue crabs Mayor Tuck wagered are spared. To date, 64% of Hampton's residents have filled out their Census forms versus 61.9% in Newport News.

"I want to thank the Hampton team and residents who enabled us to finish ahead of Newport News in our Census Challenge," said Mayor Tuck. "Hampton has a history of rising to meet challenges, and therefore, I knew my having to relinquish a dozen of our finest crabs to Mayor Price was never in doubt. Now I am hopeful that both cities can sustain our momentum as we strive for a 'Complete Census Count.' "

While Hampton was the overall winner, Newport News is a larger city and more of their residents responded to the Census during the challenge period. Newport News saw 2,330 additional households complete the Census, while Hampton increased their number by 1,748.

"Congratulations to Hampton and Mayor Tuck for winning our 2020 Census Challenge," said Mayor McKinley L. Price. "While it's never fun to admit defeat, I will gladly give up oysters if it means our cities are counted in the Census. Thanks to the Newport News residents who responded and helped us lead in the number of households that completed the Census during the Challenge. Let's keep pushing forward to shape the future of our great cities – respond to the Census and be counted!"

The entire area gets a boost from this friendly competition. The Census count determines the official population, which plays a large part in the distribution of federal dollars for the next 10 years. For every resident, cities can get up to \$2,000 per year (or \$20,000 over the decade) in federal spending for such things as programs for children, education, and seniors, among others. Also included is funding for roads, an area everyone in the region will enjoy.

Since the two cities added more than 4,000 people into the official count, that gets everyone on the road to being counted. If you haven't filled out your form, it's not too late. To respond, visit www.my2020census.gov, call 1-844-330-2020, or return the Census envelope that came in the mail. To learn more about the Census, Newport News residents can call 757-933-2311 and Hampton residents can contact 757-727-8311.

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