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## Residents urged to fill out census

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**SOUTH EUCLID** — It happens but once every 10 years, as required by the U.S. Constitution, and it's here now.

The U.S. Census is about to get underway and a local man is getting the word out South Euclid residents need to respond to the call.

Dennis Fiorelli is Complete Count Committee chairman for the Census Bureau in the area and he is telling people how simple filling out the census form can be, and the costly things that can happen when people don't fill it out.

The forms should start arriving at homes next week. The U.S. Census Bureau is quick to point out it should only take about 10 minutes to answer 10 questions.

Fiorelli said neither laziness nor privacy concerns should stand in the way of a filled-out form.

"Some people may be concerned because they have too many people living in their house because they're only allowed to have up to three non-

related people in the house (under city code)," he said. "There could be college students with six people living in one house.

"But, they should still fill out the form truthfully because that information isn't going to be shared with the city. And, it's important to the city that everybody is counted."

Fiorelli explained when the federal government grants money to cities, it is largely based on population. For every uncounted person, a city may lose \$1,200-\$1,500 in federal financing per year for the next 10 years.

Further, he said, the Census Bureau states those who don't fill out their forms are causing a waste of tax dollars.

"The best way to make sure someone (a census taker) comes to your house is to not fill out the form," Fiorelli said. "They will send one to your house at an estimated taxpayer expense of \$60-\$70 per household."

The Census Bureau estimates for every 1 percent increase nationally over the

percentage of returned forms in 2000, the U.S. government will save about \$85 million.

In 2000, 72 percent of South Euclid residents returned completed forms.

Fiorelli said the form does not ask financial questions or those pertaining to Social Security or taxes paid.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses to any question with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement agencies.

Census figures are used, in part, to allocate more than \$400 billion to states and communities. The data also helps determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals and new housing developments.

Finally, the data is used to determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

In the 2000 Census, South Euclid had a population of 23,536. In July 2009, census figures showed the city's population dropping to 21,209, making South Euclid the 10th largest city in Ohio in terms of percentage of population lost.