



County of Rockland

Office of County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: CJ Miller
(845) 638-5645

County Successfully Challenges Census Bureau Population Estimates ***Rockland's population increased by 500+ residents***

New City, NY – For the third year in a row, the County of Rockland has successfully challenged the Census Bureau's Population Estimate for Rockland. This successful challenge was one of only eight in New York State and one of only three outside of New York City.

In September, the Planning Department's Information Division submitted this latest official Challenge of the Census Bureau's 2007 population estimate for Rockland, which was released in March. Through the Planning Department's collection and analysis of building permit and certificate of occupancy data from the County's towns and villages, it was determined that Rockland's population estimate was too low. Last week, the Census Bureau officially accepted the Planning Department's 2007 Population Estimates Challenge. This successful Challenge has directly impacted the County's official population estimate through the addition of more than 500 people and could not have been accomplished without the assistance and cooperation of Rockland's towns and villages.

The County previously successfully challenged both the Census Bureau's 2005 and 2006 population estimates. Combined, those two challenges added more than 2,500 people to the County's official population estimate. With this new challenge, according to the Census Bureau, Rockland County's population as of July 1, 2007 was 297,005, which constitutes the highest recorded official population in Rockland County history.

"To date, Rockland County's successful challenges of the Census Bureau's population estimates have added more than 3,200 people to our official count," said County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef. "Having the most accurate count of our population as possible is vital to ensuring funding for health and human services, as well as various housing, transportation and educational programs for the County and its towns and villages. This latest challenge is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our demographic specialists here in Rockland."

Rockland's successful Population Estimate Challenges not only result in a revised official population estimate for the County, but also serve to increase the official population estimates for Rockland's towns and villages in the next set of annual population estimates.

The County's challenge of the Census Bureau's 2006 population estimate for Rockland was one of only three in New York State and one of only seven for a county in the nation. The County's challenge of the Census Bureau's 2005 population estimate for Rockland was one of only eight in New York State and one of only 12 for a county in the nation.

The Planning Department's efforts in challenging the Census Bureau's Annual Population Estimates is one of many initiatives undertaken to improve the accuracy and completeness of Census Bureau data for Rockland County. Recent Department initiatives have included the review and successful challenging of the Census Bureau's Housing Unit Estimates for Rockland County, as well as the review and updating of the Census Bureau's Master Address File, which will be used for 2010 Census data collection and was completed as part of the Census Bureau's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program. Rockland's towns and villages have played a key role in helping to accomplish all of these initiatives. Numerous other data quality and outreach initiatives will be undertaken by the Planning Department in preparation for the 2010 Census over the next year.

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