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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Census Event Promises Fun, Food, Education

Beaumont, Texas – The City of Beaumont and the Dallas Regional Census Center will hold a Census Blitz on Saturday, April 10, to encourage Census participation and provide information on the 2010 Census.

There will be free hot dogs, chips and drinks available, and members of the local 2010 Census Committee will be on hand to answer questions about Census forms and the Census in general. Attendees also may receive T-shirts, caps and other items on a first-come, first-served basis.

As of today, the national Census mail-in return rate is at 62 percent. The response rate for the City of Beaumont is about 54 percent overall, with pockets of the city having as low as a 40 percent return rate. According to the Census Bureau, every percentage point increase in the national participation rate by mail saves about \$85 million. It costs the government just 42 cents in a postage paid envelope to get a questionnaire back in the mail, but it costs taxpayers an average of \$57 to count a household that fails to mail it back.

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data are used to apportion congressional seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to tribal, state and local governments each year and to make decisions about what community services to provide. The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest in U.S. history, consisting of 10 questions, taking about 10 minutes to complete. Strict confidentiality laws protect the respondents and the information they provide.

WHAT: Census Blitz

WHEN: Saturday, April 10, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

WHERE: TWO LOCATIONS: Alice Keith Park Community Center located at 4050 Reed; Elmo Willard Library located at 3590 E. Lucas

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