

Dear Sai Community:

It is important that every single member of the Austin South Asian community is represented in the 2010 census count which is about to begin. It helps Austin get funds for public services that we all enjoy.

### **The census is extremely important:**

**It will determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and critical community services, in your area, like:**

- Health care & Hospitals
- Public Transportation
- Schools
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services
- Senior Centers and other programs for the elderly
- Job Training Centers

It will also affect the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives.

People of every age should be counted in the census - from newborns to the very old, whether they live here legally or not. If they live in the US for at least 6 months a year, they should be counted. The census is safe & extremely confidential, and severe penalties are imposed on any official who breaks this code of confidentiality. To ensure proper and accurate representation of our community, it is vitally important that every family complete the census form.

For every individual included in the census, thousands of dollars will be awarded over the next 10 years to the state/city/community they live in, by the Federal Government. According to a Price Waterhouse study it is estimated that Travis County had an under count of 15,732 people in the 200 Census. That under count resulted in a loss of \$235,980,000 of Federal funding that could have come to Central Texas.

-We cannot afford an under count in 2010!

**All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. Not even President Obama will know your identity**

### **It is Safe:**

The national law prohibits anyone divulging census information to any group or individual. Your information remains strictly confidential. Only summary reports are created.

### **It is quick:**

This year's census forms are the shortest in history. The survey has only 10 (Ten) questions. For each person living at a residence it asks for age, date of birth, sex, and race. It also asks whether the residence is owned or rented and a telephone number; in case there is an answer that needs clarification.

Please do not consider Census as junk mail.  
Remember, your response directly benefits your own community!

**Here is some additional information about the Census and why it is of vital importance....**

-The Census is safe, easy and important!

-Census forms are available in 6 different languages, and there are Language Assistance Guides for 59 other languages

-Fill out the form and mail it back in the pre-paid envelope provided by April 1st for an accurate count

-A Census taker follows up with every address that does not mail back the form in order to get the best count possible for our community

The US will start its 2010 Census by mailing out Census forms by March 15th. Everyone is requested to fill them out and mail them back by April 1. **Participation in the census is required by law.** If census forms are not received for your place of residence or business then census staff will begin to approach you in person.

**It is Safe:**

The national law prohibits anyone divulging census information to any group or individual. Your information remains strictly confidential. Only summary reports are created.

**All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. Not even President Obama will know your identity**

**It is quick:**

This year's census forms are the shortest in history. The survey has only 10 (Ten) questions. For each person living at a residence it asks for age, date of birth, sex, and race. It also asks whether the residence is owned or rented and a telephone number; in case there is an answer that needs clarification.

Please do not consider Census as junk mail.  
Remember, your response directly benefits your own community!

**The questionnaire should take you no longer than 10 minutes, but it is important for the next 10 years**

Did you know FEMA uses census data to plan their emergency response actions?

For more information, sample forms, and information in all languages see:  
<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

Thank you for helping to support public services in Central Texas!