



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

**“FUNDING FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS IS AT STAKE”
HARTFORD RESIDENTS URGED TO
“MARCH TO THE MAILBOX” ON SATURDAY, APRIL 10TH**

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---

(April 7, 2010)--- City leaders are concerned that Federal Funding could be in jeopardy if Hartford residents don't fill out and mail back their 2010 Census forms. Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Councilwoman Veronica Airey-Wilson and Census officials all emphasized the benefits of millions of federal dollars.

“We can't afford to jeopardize funding for our children, our seniors, and our city as a whole,” Mayor Perez said during a news conference at City Hall.

The latest numbers from the Census show that only 32% of the households in Hartford have returned their questionnaire. That's well below the state average of 51% and the national average of 50%. Examples of return-rates from other Connecticut cities:

Bridgeport:	35%
New Britain:	41%
New Haven:	35%
Waterbury:	41%

To encourage higher participation in the 2010 Census, the City of Hartford Complete Count Committee is teaming-up with the Community Renewal Team (CRT) and other community representatives for Saturday's "March to the Mailbox" campaign. Area barber shops and hair salons will serve as sites for community conversations between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. so folks can then march to the nearest mailbox. Some outreach areas include 600 block of Albany Avenue and the corner of Park and Putnam Streets.