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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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### **2010 UNITED STATES CENSUS UPDATE**

As you are aware, this year marks the twenty-third United States Census. Conducted every ten years since 1790 and mandated by the United States Constitution, the Census seeks to count everyone residing in the United States to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as how, in part, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities. This data is also used to determine locations for retail stores, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.

Within the last few weeks, many County residents received their Census questionnaires. With only ten questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes only ten minutes to complete and must then be mailed back. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. If the replacement questionnaire is not returned, an enumerator will visit the household.

The Census Bureau is currently advising those that receive mail via a Post Office (P.O.) Box to wait for an enumerator to visit their home. As currently scheduled, enumerators are expected to begin this task at the beginning of May.

Recently, the Census Bureau has announced that the Census tracts that encompass the Towns of Byron, Bergen and the Towns Bethany and Pavilion will be receiving a second questionnaire through a 'blanket' mailing to every housing unit, regardless of whether or not the initial questionnaire has already been returned. Although these areas have relatively high participation rates at the present time, the decision to conduct a second mailing was based on the 2000 Census response rates.

Please be advised that, by law, the Census Bureau cannot share individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

Thank you in advance for your participation. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Genesee County Department of Planning at [planning@co.genesee.ny.us](mailto:planning@co.genesee.ny.us) or 344-2580 ext. 5467.