



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.ManhattanCB4.org

JEAN-DANIEL NOLAND
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Thomas L. Mesenbourg, Jr.
Acting Director and Deputy Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

Re: 2010 Census

Dear Secretary Locke (or Deputy Director Mesenbourg),

Manhattan Community District 4 spans the Chelsea and Clinton neighborhoods of New York City. It is home to a large population of Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Bisexual residents. The Community Board serving this district strongly believes that it is critically important for the Census Bureau to reverse its current policy and count all legally recognized marriages and civil unions in the 2010 census -- including those of same-sex couples.

The current policy is an injustice against all Americans who expect the government to faithfully and accurately report on our legal relationships. It will also unfairly discriminate against the Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Bisexual community by failing to accurately count its needs for health care and other government services for a decade to come.

We urge you to take this action as a first step on the long road to a wholly inclusive census. We insist that the relationships and lives of our residents be counted accurately and fairly by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Sincerely,

Jean-Daniel Noland, Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4