WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States has mandated, since the year 1790, that a census of the population occur every 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council is comprised of members from eight counties: Brevard County, Lake County, Marion County, Orange County, Osceola County, Seminole County, Sumter County and Volusia County; and

WHEREAS, and accurate and complete population count is vital to our eight county region as population numbers are used for determining the allocation of billions of dollars of federal and state funding for programs such as public health, housing assistance, education, and transportation; for fair and accurate redistricting of voting districts; and for determining the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, for every resident that does not respond to the census, the Region will risk a significant loss of federal and state funding over the ten year period following the census; and

WHEREAS, several individual Boards of County Commissioners created Complete Count Committees, with the mission of creating awareness of the 2020 Census toward achieving an accurate and complete population count with the goal of maximizing the response rate to the census among all residents of the Counties on every level; and

WHEREAS, in pursuing its mission and goal, the Complete Count Committees have begun implementing their “2020 Census Awareness Action Plans” which includes an approach and methodology to establish census partnerships; reach the traditionally undercounted and non-responders to the census; and to address common barriers in responding to the census; and

WHEREAS, residents, for the first time in census history, will have the option of responding to the census by computer, mobile device, telephone, or traditional paper questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, the Region’s motto for the 2020 Census shall be “We All Count in East Central Florida”; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council strongly encourages every resident of the eight county region, upon notice by the U.S. Census Bureau, to promptly respond to the 2020 Census, as everyone counts; it’s in the Constitution; it’s safe; it’s easy; it’s a civic duty; and it’s vitally important to every resident of the Region for now and in the future.

ADOPTED THIS 15th DAY OF JANUARY 2020

Sean Parks, Chairman
East Central Florida Regional Planning Council