



## COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

Marcus J. Molinaro  
County Executive

December 22, 2022

US Department of Commerce, US Census Bureau  
Subject: 2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review

Dutchess County has found substantial issues with the submitted student housing group quarters count at several of our private colleges and boarding schools. Those issues are described below. The errors are large enough to negatively impact finances for the involved municipalities — especially the Town of Red Hook and Village of Pawling, where the missing students account for roughly 10% of the municipal population. We strongly encourage the Census Bureau to conduct the Post-Census Group Quarters Review and to issue certified population count corrections.

- At Bard the college was given incorrect, or at least unclear, information in writing. I have attached an email from Jonathan Becker, Executive Vice President of the college, which also includes a forwarded email from Mary Mulligan of the Pawling Census Bureau office telling the college to count students “living in housing as of April 1.” Their submitted number is low by about 1,100 people.
- At Vassar an administrative assistant spoke to different Census employees on the phone and had no paper trail to share. They confirmed that the count they submitted was of students actually in housing on April 1st, 2020 and is low by about 600 people.
- At Marist they did get the correct guidance and submitted the pre-pandemic number, but according to their Director of Institutional Data, Research, & Planning, Haseeb Arroon, the upload system required the school to submit a number for each of a list of buildings, and two newly constructed dorm buildings, along with one university-owned off-campus building, were not on the census’s list, so they were not able to provide a number for those. For that reason, their count is short by about 600 people. I have attached an email from Mr. Arroon as well.
- The Census blocks surrounding both the Trinity-Pawling school in the Village of Pawling and the Maplebrook school in Amenia showed large drops in group quarters population, and conversations with administration at those institutions strongly suggest that similar issues occurred.

We look forward to formally submitting these concerns through the PCGQR process. We have also found a geolocating issue at the Fishkill Correctional Facility but understand that that should be addressed through the regular CQR process.

With any questions, please contact: Dylan F. Tuttle, Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development (845) 486-3631 [dtuttle@dutchessny.gov](mailto:dtuttle@dutchessny.gov).

Sincerely,



Marcus J. Molinaro  
Dutchess County Executive