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Judge Allows U.S. Census Lawsuit to Move Forward

Columbus joined the State of New York in effort to block Trump Administration from demanding citizenship information in 2020 Census

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the judge in the U.S. Census lawsuit denied the defendant’s motion to dismiss, allowing the case to move forward.

Last May, Columbus joined New York in a lawsuit to block the Trump Administration from demanding citizenship information in the 2020 U.S. Census. Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein explained that Columbus was joining the lawsuit in part because of the decades of bipartisan recognition that the federal government demanding citizenship information would lead to greatly depressed census participation in communities with large immigrant populations, potentially threatening critical federal funds and fair representation in Congress and the Electoral College.

“It is an important victory that this case will move forward,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “Last year, Columbus received almost \$100 million in federal grant programs, all of which rely on the population data collected in the census. It is our obligation to protect the interests of Columbus residents, and the unnecessary possibility of losing federal funds distributed to state and local governments could put important resources in jeopardy. We’ll continue to stand up against these very real threats to our community.”

In March, the Trump administration announced its decision to use the 2020 U.S. Census to demand information on the citizenship status of every resident in the country. The U.S. Census Bureau has not sought citizenship information on the decennial census form since 1950. In a reversal of nearly seven decades of settled practice, the bureau also departed from the long-standing and well-established processes for revising the decennial census questionnaire. Decisions to change questions on the decennial census typically have taken several years to test, evaluate and implement.

The lawsuit is being heard in the Southern District of New York.

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