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Meetings and Contacts

- January 17th I attended the **City's Census kickoff press event** as a member of the Complete Count steering committee. Press was sparse but included Spanish language television. After many misunderstandings we finally obtained some answers from Census staff about the logistics of the committee's practical role.
- I will be attending the Eds & Meds Taskforce meeting tomorrow to discuss a work **proposal** (see below).
- Rich Stagliano of the Center for Family Services and I will meet Monday afternoon to get better acquainted. He indicated that he will most likely appoint a senior staff member to serve on the Executive Committee.
- Thanks to an introduction from Senator Lautenberg's South Jersey director Mike Maitland, Tuesday morning I will meet with Melissa Castro-Marmero from Senator Menendez's office to talk about the **2010 Census**, the city's Census count appeal, communication problems between the Census Bureau and the City, roadblocks to coordinating Census education outreach, and the City's difficulty in obtaining funds to support that effort.
- On the 20th I'll be attending a meeting with Heart of Camden and the other interested parties to discuss **next steps for the Camden-Glassboro light rail stop analysis presentations**.

Projects

- The CCOP Survey on Camden's Recovery Report has been printed and distributed.
- CamConnect's role in GCP's State of Camden Report is complete and the report is set to be printed in the coming weeks. The project had a smaller time demand than expected.
- We've started work on a new project with the Walter Rand Institute involving **social network analysis** of a survey of self-identified organizational ties among social service providers in a few NJ cities. WRI staff are handling data collection, entry, and formatting. CamConnect will clean the data, import it to UCINET social network software and produce some preliminary analysis and data displays. Network analysis adds a new example of a visually compelling tool to our service portfolio.
- I am working to complete a proposal by Friday for CamConnect to provide ongoing collection, management, and mapping of the key **human, physical, and financial capital stats** for the Eds & Meds Task Force. While some of the data are considered proprietary and sensitive by some of the member institutions, the proposal provides that each taskforce institution explicitly specify what, if any of the information collected can be published by CamConnect outside of the Task Force's own reports and in what aggregated form. It also includes a proposal to obtain and map address and salary information for aggregate display and internal institutional use.
- We are preparing a proposal to update the **Camden Budget Report** to be sent next Wednesday to (GCP board member) Chris Perks of Engineering/Planning firm Dresdner

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Robin. In addition to an updated version of the analysis Derek produced, Mr. Perks has also asked for a **comparison of tax rates** in Camden and its neighbor municipalities.

- By the end of next week we will deliver a **proposal** solicited by CCOP to estimate the **costs of demolishing versus maintaining abandoned property**.

Data

- Last month the Census Bureau released census block level **employee work and home location job data for 2007 and 2008** through its Local Employment Dynamics On the Map application. We will have a quick-facts report on the data (2002-2008) released before the Data Fair.
- **Weekly crime statistic reports** from the CPD seem to have dried up again after a very brief re-start. I'm working on restoring the flow and still trying to speak to someone within the department about the state and future of their **GIS** efforts.
- Ruth Rivera-Perez the delightful student intern that Sean steered to us, completed her data entry work closing the gap in our historical vote counts and maintained her enthusiasm throughout. We are trying to obtain the most recent election's official tally from the county, before releasing a **voting report** (on which Aaron has already started work).

Funding & Budget

- Our application to the Knight Foundation to fund a "Camden Matters"-type **CamDenizen news aggregation web service** was denied. We will resubmit a more detailed version of the proposal to other funders.
- The Citywide Diabetes Collaborative (collocated in our office suite) facilitated our application for a **Shepherd Poverty Program volunteer** from Washington & Lee university to work on housing abandonment issues including deciphering the City's processes for managing these properties.
- I have not yet had the opportunity to update and annotate the budget approved at the previous board meeting.

Administrative & Logistical

- The **Data Fair** has been set to take place on **Friday, February 26th** in the multi-purpose room at Rutgers. Dr. Wendell Pritchett has agreed to serve as the keynote speaker. I'll email Dr. Pritchett today with a few suggestions for themes (tying together civic engagement and access to information *outside the academy*) and ask him to settle on a title that we can publicize next week with an agenda. In response to a common suggestion from last year's attendees, I'm planning to devote more time to the table/poster presentation, explicitly introducing the presenting organizations in my opening remarks. Aaron created a **webpage** (www.camconnect.org/datafair) to host updates and announcements (and information on past Fairs).