

The Saratogian (saratogian.com), Serving the Saratoga Springs, N.Y. region

News

Officials warn of census scam

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

By MAREESA NICOSIA, The Saratogian

SARATOGA COUNTY — If a "census bureau representative" knocks on your door and asks for personal information like your social security number or your e-mail address, they aren't who they say they are.

The Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau are warning residents to be wary of individuals who may pose as census bureau representatives and may try to enter homes to obtain social security numbers or other financial information.

Chamber of Commerce President Joe Dalton said Tuesday that while there have been no reports of this occurring in New York state to date, the Better Business Bureau expects people might take the opportunity to do so with the upcoming census.

"They anticipate that people will use this as a ploy to get private information from individuals," Dalton said.

Legitimate census takers will be equipped with a badge, a

census canvas bag, a hand-held electronic unit and a confidentiality notice.

During their initial visitation period, census takers are strictly trying to determine how many individuals live in the residence, Dalton said. They will not ask for names, ages or social security numbers of the people living in the residence.

The Census Bureau will not contact people by e-mail. Anyone who receives an e-mail supposedly sent by the Census Bureau is advised not to open messages or attachments.

Residents should report fake e-mails and any instances of door-to-door soliciting of personal information by people posing as census takers to the Saratoga Springs Police Department (584-1800) or the county Sheriff's Department (885-6761).

URL: <http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2009/10/28/news/doc4ae7a3832e0e2711386814.prt>

© 2009 saratogian.com, a **Journal Register** Property