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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, May 1, 2018  
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## City of Columbus Joins U.S. Census Lawsuit Against Trump Administration

*New York Attorney General filed amended complaint to include Columbus in effort to block Trump Administration from demanding citizenship information in 2020 Census*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced today that the City of Columbus was joining New York Attorney General Eric T. Shneiderman in a lawsuit to block the Trump administration from demanding citizenship information in the 2020 U.S. Census.

City Attorney Klein made the announcement at the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) Business Innovation Center and was joined by: Inna Kinney, Founder and CEO of ECDI; Ramona Reyes, Director of Our Lady of Guadalupe Center and Columbus City School Board Member; Somali community leader Mohamud Jama and several other small business owners and community leaders.

City Attorney Klein explained that part of the rationale for Columbus joining the lawsuit was 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.

**“Last year, Columbus received nearly \$100 million in federal grant programs, many of which rely on the population figures collected in the census to distribute federal funds among states and local governments,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “Our role in this lawsuit is to protect what is in the best interest of Columbus, and to stand up for the civil rights of the most vulnerable members in our community.”**

In March, the Trump administration announced its decision to use the 2020 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.

A copy of the [amended lawsuit](#) is available online.

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