



## **MEDIA CONTACT**

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## **Saturday, September 12 is 2020 Census Day at the Bristol Farmers Market**

(BRISTOL, CT September 9, 2020) – This Saturday, September 12 has been designated 2020 Census Day at the Bristol Farmers Market. Anyone who has not yet completed the Census is invited to visit the Farmers Market to meet with members from the United States Census Bureau who will be on hand to assist people in completing their Census information on site. All those who do so will receive a FREE gift. “Participation in the 2020 Census is required and important in order for Bristol to receive federal funding to support many essential local programs,” said Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu. “The process is easy, secure, and by law, confidential.”

The City of Bristol receives \$9.5 million in federal funding each year. Without a complete count, the City could receive less in federal funding. For example, this past year, schools receive \$8 million; Police receive \$410,000; Fire receives \$154,000; and \$250,000 is allocated to road maintenance and repairs. In addition, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) receives funding of \$650,000 each year.

“We encourage all Bristol residents to participate in the 2020 Census,” stated Councilwoman Mary Fortier. “Having a complete count is important for the City to receive federal funding which helps to pay for many essential services provided to the community.”

“As a reminder, the safety of our vendors and the customers who will be shopping at the market is our first priority. The City has worked with the State Department of Agriculture and the Bristol-Burlington Health District to develop guidelines for the market,” said the city’s Marketing Director Dawn Nielsen.

“Before visiting the market on Saturday, we ask the community to please review the following guidelines, which can also be downloaded on the Bristol All Heart website at: [BristolAllHeart.com/FarmersMarket](http://BristolAllHeart.com/FarmersMarket),” she said.

- If you are feeling sick – stay home, ask a friend or family member to shop for you.
- We may be required to limit the number of customers into the market at one time, in accordance with guidance from the State of CT Department of Agriculture, so be prepared to briefly wait in line to enter the market.
- Follow the directional signs which indicate parking areas and the market entrance.
- If you are unable to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others, it is recommended that you wear a face mask or cloth face covering while shopping at the market.

- Upon entering the market use the hand sanitizer – hand sanitizer stations are located at both the entrance and exit.
- Please practice social distancing by keeping a distance of at least 6 feet from other customers and vendors.
- Please shop with your eyes, not your hands. Vendors will be happy to assist you with items you wish to purchase.
- Wash all produce thoroughly before using it.

The City of Bristol Farmers Market is recognized by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture as accepting payment vouchers from the Women, Infants, and Children Farmers Market Nutrition Program and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. All participating farms are certified by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

The 2020 season of the Bristol Farmers Market is held in Downtown Bristol at Centre Square (across the street from City Hall) every Saturday from 10 am-1 pm until October 31, 2020.

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