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City of Youngsville Annual Population Projections through 2040

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To: Mayor Ken Ritter, City of Youngsville

From: Mike Hefner, Chief Demographer

I. Introduction

GPDS is pleased to provide this report to the City of Youngsville at their request. This report is to provide the estimated population of the City of Youngsville through 2040. The City is planning a waste water treatment system expansion to better serve the current population as well as the anticipated population over two decades from now. These projections are to assist with the planning process.

II. Census Counts and the City of Youngsville

The City of Youngsville, located in the southeastern corner of Lafayette Parish, has been one of the fastest growing cities in Louisiana. Between the 2000 and 2010 census counts the City grew from 4,091 to 8,105 persons, a 98% increase.

Between these two census counts GPDS conducted a census update for the City in 2005. Using data on household garbage collections, which were mandated by ordinance, an accurate count of households was established. The population was estimated to be 5,108 persons at that time.

Another census estimate was conducted by GPDS in 2014. At that time the City's population was estimated to be 11,043 persons. The same methodology was used as in the 2005 report.

The Census Bureau continues to conduct their annual census population counts through their American Community Survey program. Using various local, state, and national data sources the Census Bureau arrives at an estimated population for jurisdictions over 5,000 persons.

The 2016 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates Youngsville to have a population of 12,709. This represents an increase of 4,604 persons or 57% from the 2010 Census.

Regardless of the method, the City of Youngsville continues to grow. How that growth will continue is the subject of this report.

III. Methodology for 2040 Population Projections

A. Census and Estimated Population Counts

The only certain population counts are the actual decennial census counts taken every 10 years. In between the Census Bureau provides an estimated population through the ACS program. However, comparing ACS counts with actual census counts for those specific years shows that the ACS estimates are often at odds with each other.

For example, the 2010 Census showed Youngsville with a population of 8,105. The 2010 Five-Year ACS for that year was 7,336, an undercount of 736 persons.

To help balance the ACS counts, the households receiving mandatory garbage collections were calculated and the average persons per household by census block group were used to arrive at a residential count of 13,163 persons using 2017 data. This compares closely with the 2016 ACS estimate of 12,709, a difference of 454 residents, especially when considering the time period difference. This provides a validation of the ACS and household-based population estimates.

B. Annual Rate of Growth Factors

The rate of growth has varied over the years. The City experienced a high of 98% in the decade between the 2000 and 2010 decennial census counts. In between the annual ACS 5-year estimates the growth was from 10% to a more moderate 15%. When taking a blending of the ACS and local household counts into account the *annual* ranges of growth were calculated to be:

- 10% low-range
- 13% mid-range
- 15% high-range.

Considering that the City has been using readily available land during the past 15 years it is not practical to expect the high rate of growth experienced in the past to continue through 2040. More competition for home development from other areas of the Parish, traffic congestion, less high-quality land availability, flood zone restrictions on some of the available land, and being abutted by the cities of Lafayette and Broussard municipal boundaries all play a part in moderating the past rate of growth.

On the other end of the spectrum, much land to the south of Youngsville is good land that drains well. The City has ready access to the U.S. Hwy. 90 corridor. Fast developing retail and services are springing up to serve the population. The quality of life is improving.

The City has funded considerable road and utility expansions that work well to attract businesses and developers. Commercial corridors, such as that along the Chemin Metairie Extension, will also attract businesses that are suitable for annexation. These criteria bode well for continued robust development.

C. Assumptions Used for the Annual Growth Rate

1. The City will continue to develop to the south and around the new Southside High School.
2. There will not be any major trend toward high-density housing.
3. Major transportation projects will ease some of the traffic congestion.
4. Most annexations will be centered around commercial activities and not large-scale housing developments.

5. Availability of other lands suitable for housing development in other parts of the Parish will compete with the Youngsville area.
6. The high quality of life offered by Youngsville will continue to attract residents.
7. Infrastructure expansion by the City will attract more commercial and light industrial operations.

D. Rate of Growth Factors Used in the Projections

With these assumptions in mind, a blended annual rate of growth was used to project the population to 2040. This blend consisted of using the ACS and Household counts.

Starting from 2017, the rate of growth was set at 12% which puts this in the mid-range category. From there the rate is adjusted downward until reaching a 7% rate by 2040. An extension of 2040 is shown to 2050 using a rate of 5%.

These rates are likely conservative but are likely to be met by the City over the ensuing years.

IV. Population Projections

Table 1 below shows the annual population projections from 2017 through 2040. An estimated population for 2050 is shown for illustrative purposes.

TABLE 1- Annual Population Projections 2017 Through 2040

City of Youngsville Annual Population Projections Through 2040	
Year	Projected Count
2017	12,170
2018	13,270
2019	13,630
2020	14,863
2021	15,198
2022	16,572
2023	16,870
2024	18,395
2025	18,725
2026	20,326
2027	20,692
2028	22,461
2029	22,864
2030	24,707
2031	25,549
2032	27,546
2033	27,976
2034	30,094
2035	30,494
2036	32,727
2037	33,086
2038	35,427
2039	35,733
2040	37,907
2050	43,559

V. Conclusions

The City is expected to grow considerably over the next few decades. While the rate of growth will be lower than in the past, the increase in population is unmistakable. When compared to the 2010 Census count, the City is expected to grow by 27,628 persons by 2040. This represents a 341% increase.

GPDS welcomes any questions you may have or any need for additional information with regards to this projection.

