



CITY OF ALBANY  
COMMON COUNCIL

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

OCT 25 2010

A 2011-1

**Council Member 1<sup>st</sup> Ward**  
Dominick Calsolaro  
35 Clare Avenue  
Albany, New York 12202

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**CHAIR**  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, TAXATION AND  
ASSESSMENT

GENERAL SERVICES, HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

October 17, 2010

Shoshanna Grove, Secretary of the Commission  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Re: Appeal of closure of Delaware Station, Albany, New York, 12209

Dear Ms. Grove:

Please accept this letter as a petition for review of the United States Postal Service's decision to close the Delaware Station post office, located at 332 Delaware Avenue, Albany, New York 12209.

This appeal is being made by Dominick Calsolaro, Common Council Member First Ward, City of Albany, New York. I, and my constituents, use the Delaware Station post office. We use the Delaware Station post office, the most convenient and easily accessible post office facility for the residents of the First Ward, for: buying stamps, sending packages or certified mail, and having P.O. boxes because many residents are fearful of having their mail left unattended during the day.

The respondent in this appeal is the United States Postal Service.

The determination that I am appealing is stated in two September 22, 2010 letters from Edward F. Phelan, Jr., District Manager, United States Postal Service, copies of which are attached with this petition.

There are two reasons why I believe the Postal Service's decision did not follow required procedures: First, the above-referenced letters of September 22, 2010 failed to notify the recipients about the opportunity to appeal the determination to close the station.

Second: The decision to close Delaware Station was arbitrary and failed to take into consideration the hardship closing the Station will have on the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. To wit: The Delaware Station post office is the closest post office to most residents in the 12202 and 12209 zip code areas. The post offices that my constituents are being sent to, according to the September 22, 2010 letter, are miles away from their homes and businesses. This hardship will be especially trying on the residents of the First Ward. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, 40% of the households in the 12202 zip code area do not have access to a vehicle. An additional 44% of households have only one vehicle available for their use. Furthermore, almost 30% of residents rely on public transportation or walking to get to work. Add in a family poverty rate of 33% (17% of seniors are living below poverty level) and the fact that it costs \$4.00 for a one day pass on public transportation, one can clearly see that closing the Delaware Station post office will have a deleterious affect on the residents of the First Ward. To ask a person without a vehicle and living below the poverty level to pay \$4.00 to go to a post office and back, a necessity in today's world, is unconscionable.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter of closing the Delaware Station post office, Albany, New York 12202.

Sincerely,



Dominick Calsolaro  
Common Council Member - First Ward

cc: U. S. Senator Charles Schumer  
U. S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Member of Congress Paul Tonk  
Delaware Area Neighborhood Association  
Second Avenue Neighborhood Association  
Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association

DISTRICT MANAGER  
ALBANY DISTRICT



September 22, 2010

Postal Customer  
Albany NY 12209

This is to inform you of the U.S. Postal Service's decision to close the Delaware Station located at 332 Delaware Avenue in Albany NY. We advised you on October 19, 2009 of our intent to conduct a feasibility study and the final decision has been made. This office will be open and operational until December 31, 2010.

Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is in a fiscal crisis and must take action to reduce the size of its retail and delivery network. By consolidating, streamlining and adjusting our operations, the Postal Service becomes a more efficient and effective organization.

I want to assure you that the community's input was received and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all of the factors involved, the decision was made to proceed with the closure.

Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services will still be available in neighboring offices and our customers will continue to receive the same excellent service they always have.

The Post Offices, stations or branches nearest to your residence are located at:

- Academy Station, 563 New Scotland Ave., Albany NY 12208
- Delmar Post Office, 357 Delaware Ave., Delmar NY 12054
- Albany Main Post Office, 45 Hudson Ave., Albany NY 12207

A trip to the Post Office can be skipped altogether and you can purchase stamps and shipping labels online using the Postal Service's website, [usps.com](http://usps.com). You can also request free package pickup at [usps.com](http://usps.com). The Postal Service will pick up packages during regular mail delivery the next business day – and, unlike other shipping companies, there is no fee for this service. Postage stamps can also be purchased at 1-800-STAMP-24, thousands of banking ATMs and in more than 55,000 retail outlets across the nation.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact David H. Desrosiers, Manager, Consumer Affairs at (518) 452-2406 or [david.h.desrosiers@usps.gov](mailto:david.h.desrosiers@usps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed F. Phelan, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Edward F. Phelan, Jr.  
District Manager  
Albany District



September 22, 2010

Postal Box Customer  
Albany NY 12209

This is to inform you of the U.S. Postal Service's decision to permanently close the Delaware Station located at 332 Delaware Avenue in Albany New York. We advised you on October 19, 2009 of our intent to conduct a feasibility study and the final decision has been made. This office will be open and operational until December 31, 2010.

Because of the drastic decline in mail volume, the Postal Service is in a fiscal crisis and must take action to reduce the size of its retail and delivery network. By consolidating, streamlining and adjusting our operations, the Postal Service becomes a more efficient and effective organization.

I want to assure you that the community's input was received and carefully considered before making this decision. Ultimately, based on all of the factors involved, the decision was made to proceed with the closure.

Local mail delivery will not be affected by this move. Full retail services will still be available in neighboring offices and our customers will continue to receive the same excellent service they always have.

If you are currently a Post Office Box holder at the Delaware Station, you will be able to continue to keep your current PO Box number and zip code at the Albany Main Post Office, 45 Hudson Ave in Albany.

However, a trip to the Post Office can be skipped altogether and you can purchase stamps and shipping labels online using the Postal Service's website, [usps.com](http://usps.com). You can also request free package pickup at [usps.com](http://usps.com). The Postal Service will pick up packages during regular mail delivery the next business day – and, unlike other shipping companies, there is no fee for this service. Postage stamps can also be purchased at 1.800.STAMP 24, thousands of banking ATMs and in more than 55,000 retail outlets across the nation.

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact David Desrosiers, Manager Consumer Affairs at 518-452-2406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Phefan Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Edward F. Phefan Jr.  
District Manager