

**Testimony of Richard Moses  
United States Postal Service City Letter Carrier  
Hearing on the Universal Service Obligation  
Postal Rate Commission  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire  
June 19, 2008**

Good afternoon Chairman Blair and other distinguished members of the Postal Rate Commission. My name is Richard Moses and I am a full-time city letter carrier and have been since 1972. The Postal Service hired me immediately after I left the military and I have carried routes in Boston, Quincy, Brookline, and West Roxbury in the years since. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views on the importance of universal, six-days-per-week service from a city letter carrier's perspective.

I speak to you today with over 36 years of experience delivering the mail and serving my communities everyday as a trusted employee of the federal government. I am proud to wear my uniform and I am proud to work for an agency that has won the confidence and trust of the American public. I am also proud to be a career-long union member – I belong to Branch 34 of the National Association of Letter Carriers in Boston. My union has long sought to represent members like me while keeping an eye out for the long-term health of the Postal Service. We understand the importance

of working hand in hand with the Postal Service to serve our customers, both the senders and recipients of the mail, as well as the communities we live in.

Universal service is more than just delivering the mail to every address every day at an affordable price, though that is certainly important. In fact, we are proud to be part of the most efficient and affordable postal service in the world and we know that postal services are like water and electricity and good roads -- they make it possible for businesses to grow and for communities to prosper. But as a letter carrier, I know how important the post office is to residents that make up any community in ways that are less obvious.

I'll begin with the Carrier Alert program. Nobody knows what is happening throughout a community like a letter carrier. We deliver to the same homes everyday and we know when something has changed. If the cars haven't moved, if the lawn is overgrown, or especially if the mail is piling up - we know there is reason to be concerned. Through the Carrier Alert program, carriers throughout the country have saved hundreds of lives by keeping an eye out for elderly or disabled citizens who sign up for the program. When carriers notice something out of the ordinary they get help to people who have fallen ill or become immobile.

As a steady daily presence on America's streets, carriers are often at the right place at the right time to help their fellow citizens. Whether it's helping victims of traffic accidents, aiding lost children or reporting crimes or house fires, letter carriers have a broad definition of public service. NALC honors many of these carriers at our annual Heroes of the Year ceremony held in Washington, DC. Each year a committee is tasked with reading through hundreds of stories detailing letter carriers' heroic and humanitarian acts while on the job, six are eventually selected and honored by the NALC and the Postal Service. Having more than 200,000 letter carriers on the streets everyday is an invaluable way to keep watch on America's neighborhoods and communities.

Letter carriers have also agreed to actively participate in the Cities Readiness Initiative or CRI, a federally funded effort to prepare major US cities and metropolitan areas to effectively respond to a large scale bioterrorist event by dispensing antibiotics to entire communities within 48 hours of the decision to do so.

The Postal Service and the NALC have agreed to participate in the CRI by working with major cities to develop Postal Plans, under which letter carriers will distribute medicines to all affected homes in the event of an attack.

Letter Carriers are also instrumental in the fight against hunger. NALC's annual

“Stamp Out Hunger” food drive is conducted in over 10,000 towns and cities throughout America once a year. On Saturday May 10, 2008 carriers hit the streets again and collected a record 73.1 million pounds of food donations in the nation’s largest one-day effort to combat hunger. The food was delivered to local food banks, pantries and shelters to help needy families in all 50 states and U.S. jurisdictions. Playing a role in community service programs is an extremely rewarding dynamic of serving as one the nation’s letter carriers.

I know that lots of businesses rely on the Postal Service for their existence – whether it’s the home-based businesses that sell products on e-Bay or publishers that distribute their books and magazines through the mail. But I hope you will also remember the human element and the down-to-earth role the Postal Service plays in their communities as you conduct your study. Beyond the economic impact, there are many advantages to having letter carriers out delivering mail to their communities six days a week. Protecting the mailbox and the sanctity of the mail, coming to the aid of the customers we serve, and promoting safe neighborhoods are all pieces to the importance of universal service.

The Postal Service has a long history of providing its customers with high quality and consistent service. Over the decades, we have worked hard to build confidence and

trust. That is something very valuable and worth preserving. I urge this commission to consider all the factors involved both fiscal and social when studying and making recommendations on the Universal Service Obligation.

That concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.