

**POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
FIELD HEARING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2009**

FIRST...I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO **THANK** THE FEDERAL POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE. WE ARE TREMENDOUSLY GRATEFUL FOR HAVING BEEN NOTIFIED LAST WEEK THAT **THE LOCAL INDEPENDENCE STATION WILL REMAIN OPEN** AND IT IS OUR HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THOSE FINE SERVICES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

EARLY IN JULY OF 2009, WE FIRST BECAME AWARE THAT THE INDEPENDENCE POST OFFICE BRANCH WAS ONE OF 16 POTENTIAL CLOSURES IN THE GREATER CLEVELAND AREA. WE UNDERSTAND THE DIRE FINANCIAL SITUATION THE (USPS) IS FACING AND ARE AWARE THAT SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE. WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO COME TO OUR CITY AND HEAR FIRST HAND HOW THESE CLOSINGS WILL AFFECT NOT ONLY THE RESIDENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY BUT ALSO OUR BUSINESS RESIDENTS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS, NOT ONLY IN OUR COMMUNITY BUT THOSE IN THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF CUYAHOGA HTS., BROOKLYN HTS., THE VILLAGE OF VALLEY VIEW, WALTON HILLS, BRECKSVILLE AND SEVEN HILLS, AS WELL. THE INDEPENDENCE BRANCH OF THE US POSTAL SERVICE PROVIDES A CRITICAL SERVICE FOR THE 7,000 RESIDENTS OF INDEPENDENCE IN ADDITION TO THE 25,000 WORKERS WHO ARE EMPLOYED ON THE ROCKSIDE ROAD CORRIDOR AND FOR THE MANY PEOPLE WHO DO BUSINESS IN THIS AREA. IF THIS BRANCH WERE TO HAVE CLOSED, THE IMPACT WOULD HAVE REACHED MUCH FARTHER THAN THE BOUNDARIES OF INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD HAVE ACTUALLY RESULTED IN FURTHER DECLINE OF THE USE OF THE POSTAL SYSTEM IN GENERAL.

BUT AT THIS TIME WE HAVE RECEIVED A REPRIEVE AND FOR THAT WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL. SINCE WE ARE ONE OF THE FORTUNATE COMMUNITIES TO RETAIN OUR BRANCH, I WOULD LIKE AT THIS TIME TO TURN OVER THE MICROPHONE SO THAT YOU CAN HEAR OTHER CONCERNS FROM REPRESENTATIVES FROM PATRONS OF OTHER POSTAL BRANCHES THAT ARE STILL IN LIMBO.

I WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO REITERATE OUR **APPRECIATION** FOR THE PROCESS THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION IS TAKING TO ENSURE THE STANDARDS AND SERVICES OF THE POSTAL SERVICE CONTINUE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE TO WHAT WE HAVE ALL BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO.