

Export Borough  
6022 Kennedy Avenue  
Export, PA 15632  
Phone: (724) 327-3611  
FAX: (724) 327-3611

Ms. Ruth Goldway, Chairperson  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RE: Export Borough Post Office

Dear Ms. Goldway:

I am writing to ask your help with re-opening our post office in Export, PA, 15632. Our post office was closed, although not officially, in June of 2008. The reason for the closure was the loss of a lease due to a discrepancy with the landlord. The details of this transaction are lengthy, but I would be happy to provide additional information. I requested a Letter of Determination regarding the closing of the Post Office in March of 2009 with no response. I did receive a response to my second request in July, 2009, which stated that a "final determination has still not been made". This letter was signed by Charles P. McCreadie, District Manager of the Pittsburgh Office. It has been over a year since the post office closed and we are still without even a final determination of why. I have enclosed a chronology of the events thus far.

In July of 2008, Richard Hancock, real estate specialist from North Carolina came to a very well attended town meeting regarding the closure. He made statements such as "this is the first step in the process of re-opening the post office in Export. It is the intention of the Post Office to do so". We have an audio tape and transcript of this meeting. He explained the procedure of submitting potential locations for review and the time limits, deadlines, etc. He explained that he was authorized to find 1000 square feet to open this new Post Office. He also suggested a mobile trailer could be brought in. Three potential locations were submitted by property owners and inspected by Postal Officials in October, 2008. One property was even offered to lease at NO COST by the owner. The Borough also offered to build a building to their specifications.

One property in particular was "down to one signature" for approval per Mr. Hancock. However, the communications went cold until we received a letter from Elizabeth Schaefer, District Manager Pittsburgh, explaining that all capital projects were "frozen". I spoke with the new District Manager, Charles McCreadie in April, 2009, who told me that in his opinion, Export could sustain a post office and that the postal officials "dragging their feet" on the Export project caused it to be caught up in the "freeze". It was his understanding that any project that was beyond 80% complete was to move forward and that Export fell into that category.

Export is a small Borough of less than 900 people, but is centrally located within some of the fastest residential and business development in Westmoreland County. The Murrysville post office is inadequate to service the increased volume created by the closing of the Export Office. Export as a community has lost a viable resource for our town, negatively affecting our efforts to retain and attract new businesses, as well as maintain the walkability of our town. We are a true “Main Street” community and need to keep important services available to our businesses and residents to remain viable. We are shaken by the possibility of what the loss of our Post Office could bring next. Will the bank close? Will businesses leave town? I have heard many complaints from local business owners regarding how inconvenient it is for them to have to go to Murrysville.

It is not the distance to Murrysville, it is the fact that the office is located on the opposite side of a major highway from the direction of Export. It is necessary to drive west on Rt. 22, then turn around to go east to access the post office. The visibility upon exiting the parking lot is poor and unsafe, particularly for some of our older residents who are forced to use this post office.

Export was founded in 1911, born out of the Westmoreland Coal Company that operated from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Export was part of the larger “Franklin Township”, but its residents wanted their own identity and fought for a decade to be an independently governed Borough. The coal mines shut down in the early 1950’s, but the town has continued to thrive. Within our small Borough, we have 3 large social clubs (Moose Lodge, Italian Club, Polish Club), as well as over 40 local businesses – ranging in size from the multi-million dollar company Dura-Bond to the corner Deli. We are excited about the plans for a new magistrate’s office being built in 2010.

We are a town of the generations of the immigrants that came here to work in coal mines in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Everyone knows everyone, the family names in the church bulletins are the same for the last 100 years. I am the fourth generation of my family to live here and my daughter is the fifth. My husband and I built our home 5 years ago on a piece of property that has been in my family for 100 years. My great-grandparents lived next door and my grandmother planted tomatoes in the garden where my house now sits. She walked my Dad to the local elementary school everyday, sheltering him with an umbrella in the rain, while she herself didn’t have shoes. I went to that same elementary school. This isn’t just my story, it’s everyone’s story.

In a world that is becoming ever more disconnected and impersonal, Export is truly a throwback to a friendlier time. Neighbors know one another, watch children grow up and attend the weddings and funerals. Part of that home town feel comes from having services available to use in your own hometown. Within a 1 minute walk of my home, I can go to the bank, drop my car off to get inspected, have lunch, go bowling, buy some flowers at the florist’s, go to the dentist, buy some auto parts, or even a car! I used to be able to include going to the post office, where the clerks would ask me how so-and-so was doing and my daughter knew she was getting a lollipop. You don’t get that on the internet and you don’t get that in Murrysville. Export has its own identity. Export deserves a post office.

I truly hope you can help us in our fight to keep this important service available to not just our residents, but the residents of the many surrounding communities as well. I am on the Export Borough Council, but I can't tell you how many people from Murrysville have asked me what they can do to get Export re-opened. Not even the Murrysville residents want to use that Post Office!

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to give me a call. I will make myself available by phone, letter, or even in person if necessary.

Sincerely,

K. Melanie Litz  
Council Person, Export Borough  
Post Office Committee Chair  
(724) 327-7308



June 11, 2008

Dear Export Postal Customer:

As you may be aware, the lease for our Postal facility in Export, Pennsylvania is being terminated by the landlord. Currently, we do not have another acceptable alternative location, therefore, it will be necessary to suspend services at the Export, PA Post Office. In order to provide you with uninterrupted service, beginning June 26, 2008, we will temporarily move our retail operations to the Murrysville Post Office.

We will continue to provide pickup and delivery of your mail, as well as the sale of stamps and all other customary postal services, to your roadside mailbox. Delivery of your mail will continue to be provided by the rural route carrier or city carrier who has been providing this service.

Post Office Box holders can temporarily pick up their mail from the service window at the Murrysville Post Office June 26, 2008. Delivery addresses will remain the same. For security reasons, all customers will need to show identification for mail to be released.

The Murrysville Post Office is located at 1 Priority Lane and is open for retail business during the following hours:

Monday – Friday:	9:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.
Saturday:	9:00a.m. – 4:00p.m.

The Murrysville Post Office lobby is open 24 hours, 7 days per week. In addition, the lobby includes an Automated Postal Center (APC) which is a self-service kiosk which allows customers to ship packages, mail letters, and buy stamps. The APC lets customers weigh and mail letters and parcels and purchase stamps. It does not accept cash, but it does accept debit and credit cards to dispense postage in any amount for Express Mail, Priority Mail, First-Class Mail, and Parcel Post services. It also provides mailing information, ZIP code lookup, and Delivery Confirmation services.

Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to provide excellent service to our valued customers of Export. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience during this transitional period.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Ellen Kucenic, Postmaster of Export at (724) 327-0308.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Cafaro".

Michael Cafaro  
Senior Manager, Post Office Operations

cc: Keith Beppler, District Manager  
Ray Logan, Manager, Post Office Operations

# It could take a year before Export once again has a post office

by Georgia Boring

Over 100 people filled the Export VFD social hall last week to hear what U.S. Postal Service representatives had to say about the future of the Export Post Office. Many of those present were postal employees, who have worked in the Export facility.

"It means so much for us to see this overwhelming support," said Export Mayor Bob Campagna. "The loss of the post office is an inconvenience to businesses and individuals," he mayor, adding it was

an icon in the community and helped it grow.

Richard Hancock, real estate specialist for the postal service, said the crowd was one of the largest he's had.

"The purpose (of this meeting) is to start the process of building a new post office in Export," Hancock told the crowd.

However, he added, he can't magically wave his hand and produce a post office. He explained there is a process which must be followed, with many

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required waiting periods, which could mean it will be up to one year before a post office will once again be operating in the borough.

And, Hancock told the group, when it reopens the post office will be a 1,000 square foot retail space. He said the carriers will continue to come out of Murrysville.

He said the postal service will be looking for either a pre-existing building that meets its criteria, an open site that could be leased so a pre-engineered structure could be placed on it, or a new building, which would be erected and then leased to the postal service. He said any lease signed by the postal service would be for 15 years, with two five-year options.

"We're looking to stay here in Export," he said.

Hancock emphasized that he welcomes all suggestions and asked that citizens phone or email him at 336-665-2848 or [richard.a.hancock@usps.gov](mailto:richard.a.hancock@usps.gov).

Asked if a temporary site, such as a trailer, might be erected, Hancock said it would be a duplication of effort, and just delay the project. He also told another resident that there will not be any consideration given to changing zip codes for Murrysville residents.

He said they are not looking at locating on Route 22, but want to keep the facility in the borough of Export as close to the former post office as possible. He said the specifications for the retail center will be advertised and posted.

He was unable to tell the group if the retail center will be able to accept bulk mail. He noted a retail store is different from a finance station.

Asked if he had already done a walkthrough of the town, and if he had seen anything he liked, Hancock replied, "Yes, and yes." However, he would not go into detail.



April 14, 2009

The Honorable Jason Altmire  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3804

Dear Congressman Altmire:

This responds to your March 20 letter to Postmaster General John E. Potter on behalf of your constituents, requesting the re-establishment of a postal facility in the borough of Export.

I appreciate your interest in assisting your constituents with their concerns about the closure of the Export Post Office. As you are aware, the U.S. Postal Service is a self-supporting agency that funds its operations from the revenue generated by the sales of our products and services — not taxpayer subsidies received through the Congressional appropriations process. Like so many businesses, the Postal Service is experiencing significant financial challenges related to declining mail volumes, the lackluster economy, and fluctuating fuel costs. These conditions highlight the importance of realigning our resources to achieve long-term financial success. Failure to do so would be irresponsible and threaten our ability to accomplish our mission of providing universal service to the nation at affordable prices.

We contacted Pittsburgh District postal officials, who informed us that service was suspended at the Export Post Office after receiving notification from the lessor that the lease for the facility would not be renewed. The Postal Service did continue to lease and occupy the building on a month-to-month basis until June 30, 2008. District officials currently are reviewing postal operations in the Export community, and options for providing service to its customers. However, no final determination has been made regarding the future status of this facility. As information, if the Postal Service makes a decision to close a Post Office, we comply with all the stipulations mandated by law. All final decisions are subject to review by the independent Postal Regulatory Commission, and the discontinuance procedures contained in Title 39, United States Code, are exercised before a Post Office can be permanently closed.

As background information, the Postal Service occasionally contracts for retail services in those areas where a determination has been made that it is not cost-effective to build a new facility operated and staffed by Postal Service personnel. In such cases, we competitively contract with individuals or businesses in the community to provide most of the services available at a conventional postal retail outlet, usually in conjunction with the contractor's regular business. District postal officials will solicit for interested parties throughout Export and the surrounding area for the operation of a new contract postal unit. Local government officials will be provided with the timeframe of the solicitations.

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District Consumer Affairs Manager Elizabeth Gordon would be pleased to assist you with any additional questions or concerns you may have about postal operations in the area and can be reached at (412) 359-7829.

Thank you for writing. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in other postal matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Solnik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Solnik  
Government Relations Representative

DISTRICT MANAGER  
CUSTOMER SERVICE & SALES



July 31, 2009

Melanie Litz  
Export Borough Council  
6022 Kennedy Avenue  
Export, PA 15632-1234

Dear Ms. Litz:

This is in response to your second request for a copy of the Letter of Determination regarding the closing of the Export Post Office. Ms. Schaefer responded to your first request on March 25, 2009. I have enclosed is a copy of that correspondence for your convenience.

To further clarify the information provided in her letter, a final determination still has not been made on the closing of the Export Post Office, and, as you may be already be aware, decisions to close, relocate, or consolidate Post Offices are closely regulated by Federal law.

In response to your FOIA Request #2009-FPFC-00563, since a determination has not been made, a *Log of Post Office Discontinuance Actions* does not exist.

If you construe this response to be a denial of your request, you may appeal by writing to the General Counsel, U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington DC 20260, within 30 days of the date of this letter. The letter of appeal should include statements concerning this response, the reasons why it is believed to be erroneous, and the relief sought, along with copies of the original request letter, this letter, and any other related correspondence.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify this matter with you. If we can assist you with other Postal matters, please contact our Consumer Affairs Department at (412) 359-7845.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles P. McCreadie".

Charles P. McCreadie  
District Manager

Enclosure



Office of Public Affairs  
and Government Relations

November 10, 2009

Delores Killette  
Vice President and Consumer Advocate  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW Room 10433  
Washington, D.C. 20260-2000

Dear Ms. Killette:

I am forwarding the enclosed service inquiry to you from Ms. Melanie Litz regarding the emergency suspension of the Export, Pennsylvania post office and requesting that you respond to her as to your plan of action for this office within 45 days. I would appreciate that you provide my office with a copy of your response to Ms. Litz.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Annie Kennedy".

Annie Kennedy  
Consumer Relations Specialist

Enclosure

cc: Melanie Litz  
City Councilperson  
Export, Pennsylvania

DISTRICT MANAGER  
CUSTOMER SERVICE & SALES



November 25, 2009

Melanie Litz  
Export Borough Council  
6022 Kennedy Avenue  
Export, PA 15632-1234

Dear Ms. Litz:

This is in reply to your correspondence with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) concerning the emergency suspension of the Export Post Office.

As you are aware we are pursuing plans to establish a Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in the Export area, based on the responses we received to our solicitation to the Export business community several weeks ago.

At this time, a final determination still has not been made on the closing of the Export Post Office. In the future, should the Postal Service make the decision to permanently close the Export Post Office we will notify you in writing of that decision and post the notification at the local Post Office, in accordance with the federal regulations pertaining to the discontinuance of post offices. The PRC has provided you a copy of those regulations for your convenience and any plans to formally close the Export Post Office will be handled under the policies and procedures outlined in the discontinuance guidelines.

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our plans to provide a retail postal presence in the Export community and your continued interest in the Postal Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles P. McCreadie".

Charles P. McCreadie  
District Manager