

TOWN OF RENTIESVILLE 101 N. McIntosh Street Rentiesville,
Oklahoma 74459 (918) 473-1577

August 16, 2010

Received

AUG 25 2010

Mr. Dean J. Granholm
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Office of PAGR

Dear Postal Regulatory Commission:
Mr. Dean J. Granholm:

We are in receipt of the **FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE THE SUSPENDED RENTIESVILLE, OK POST OFFICE**. This letter is to appeal any determination set forth at this time. We, the citizens of Rentiesville, OK feels we have been treated with unfair and unjustly consideration. The first **DETERMINATION** posted in the Checotah, OK Post Office from April 14, 2010 to June 15, 2010 drew no appeal because the citizens were not aware of such postings.

My concerns are: Rentiesville, OK, an historic black town incorporated in 1903 is at the verge of becoming extinct. We are on the threshold of losing all our local and state taxes, because we can't be identified with being a town or even in existence. We have lost our zip code; we have lost our physical addresses; we have lost our name as a town; and we have lost our historical identity. Rentiesville is rich with black history and in the spring of 2012 will be home to a two (2) million dollar Resource Visitor's Center in connection with the Battle of Honey Springs. The Battle of Honey Springs is a historic Civil War battle site, in which all Black soldiers and Indian soldiers fought on the frontline in one of the bloodiest battle ever fought in Indian Territory. How can we identify with this million dollar facility if we don't exist? Rentiesville is one of the thirteen (13) remaining incorporated all-black towns in Oklahoma. The State of Oklahoma originally had twenty-nine (29) incorporated all-black towns. One of our nation's most distinguished individual, Dr. John Hope Franklin, was born here in Rentiesville, OK. Dr. Franklin was born in the old original Rentiesville Post Office. During, Dr. Franklin's lifetime, he fought to keep the **POST OFFICE** open in Rentiesville. His letter is documented among the protest information secured by the USPO. We have the D.C. and Selby Minner, Dusk till Dawn Blues Festival every Labor Day weekend that draws thousands of visitors and invites some of the top blues performers. So, it is vital we keep our town's name, zip code, physical addresses on all our mail and **NOT CHECOTAH, OKLAHOMA**. We want our Post Office back.

Rentiesville, may be a semi-retirement town, but there are several working families here, along with children. We have six new homes that have been built here in Rentiesville, in

the last seven years. We have an historic background and in the next two years will draw people from around the world to absorb the history that this area holds.

REQUESTS: We want to keep our zip code of 74459 on all our mail, keep our physical addresses in Rentiesville on all our mail. Back in 1998, when visiting with Mrs. Diana Massey from the Oklahoma City, OK Post Office, I offered her another building in which the POST OFFICE could be housed with all the necessities such as toilet, handicap ramp, and office space. The new building is owned by the Town of Rentiesville. When we put our zip code in a computer and our address here in Rentiesville, the computerized services states that we don't exist and we are recognized as Checotah, OK. How is that? When the original agreement included us keeping our physical addresses, our zip code, our name and even when the final determination has not been accepted, we are already changed.

EFFECTS: Loss of identify and historical background, loss of taxes State and Local, major impact on citizens of this community, and will stun community growth and expansion. The Rentiesville Town Board of Trustees is now working with an organization that will provide Rentiesville with more stimulus grant monies to build infrastructure, businesses, our own water and sewage system, and other forms of revitalization. With the new Resource History Center being constructed in the next two years, there will definitely be growth.

I believe closing our Post Office and the excuses used to close it was a deliberate intent and we were blindsided as citizens. This serves as our protest in closing of the Post Office and signatures from over 30 households here in Rentiesville have been obtained in protest.

Your time and consideration is greatly appreciated in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mildred Burkhalter
Mayor

Enclosure

Cc: Rep. Ed Cannady
Sen. Jerry McPeak
Sen. Roger Ballinger
Sen. Tom Coburn
Honorable Governor Brad Henry
Honorable US President Barack H. Obama
Mrs. Kathy Hottel , USPO

PETITION

WE, the undersigned are residents of the TOWN OF RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA and we hereby petition the UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE, not to close our post office, not to lose our zip code, our physical street address and our town name for mail delivery. Furthermore, keep our zip code in all mail deliveries, inquiries, and mail transactions. We lose our identity and status as a town in Oklahoma, if this occurs.

Name

Physical Address

Mildred Burkhardt	300 n. mcclintosh st - Rentiesville, OK
Cecil Cunningham	1415. Grand Rentiesville, OK
George Byrd	309 John H Franklin Rentiesville
Susie M. [unclear]	403 S CENTER ST RENTIESVILLE OK
Chas. Williams	403 S CENTER ST RENTIESVILLE OK
Luches Warrrior	151 E. MAIN
Naomi Cunningham	141 South Grand Rentiesville
MARIAN CUNNINGHAM	703 A. STREET, RENTIESVILLE
Chas. [unclear]	200 S. [unclear] Rentiesville, OK
Rev. Donald E. [unclear]	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH PASTOR
JAMES CARPENTER	800 E JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN BLVD RENTIESVILLE
'77 B Starks	301 S. Center - Rentiesville, OK
Stanley Coates	601 John Hope Franklin Rentiesville, OK
James Solis	204 N MCCLINTOSH 74459
Adrian [unclear]	P.O BOX 116 Rentiesville OK 74459
Otto [unclear]	404 JHF
Harvey Jones	132 S. Grand

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Name

Physical Address

Samuel Cunningham	103 South Center
Douglas Hall's	605 John Franklin
Robert Jones	313 ^E Broadway (Broadway)
Soford Two	802 John Hope Franklin Blvd
Antonio Lollie	305 Business St.
Lenard McFee	303 Business St
Marcus Cunningham	703 A street
Latitia Hill	708 East A St Rentiesville, OK 7
CAVIN McJUNKINS	709 E ^{"A"} ST RENTIESVILLE OK - East "A" St.
And Kelly	South D.C. Minner St.
Michael White (League)	803 DC Minner St
Sherman Chandler	102 N. Center Rentiesville, OK 74459
Wilma Edwards	204 204 East Main
Sherman Lollie	204 GRAND
Paul Burkhalter	304 S. McIntosh Rentiesville