

A2012-96

November 29, 2011

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Ave NW STE 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Goldway:

The Postal Service has informed us that our post office is going to be closed.

We, the customers of the Saint Anthony, Iowa Post Office wish to appeal this decision.

We, the customers of the Saint Anthony, Iowa Post Office vigorously protest this action in view of the provision in the Postal Reorganization act calls for the Postal Service to provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where the post office is not self-sustaining.

We have many concerns and feel that closing the Saint Anthony, Iowa Post Office would be a hardship for our citizens and a disadvantage for our city.

The proposal offers a CBU unit in exchange for our post office. This will not give us anywhere close to the service we need in our community.

Our rural carrier will be responsible for all services. The proposed small amount of time to deliver our mail and complete needed services would be impossible for him to adhere to. Many of our citizens choose to pay their bills with money orders for security purposes, especially our senior citizens. Our rural carrier will not be able to provide this service safely. He will only be able to accept cash during the time he is here and take it to the post office in State Center. Not only do our citizens have a problem with this as a possible loss of money, but it is unsafe for our rural carrier to carry this large amount of cash and money orders in these times of escalated robberies. It will also impede the ability for people to purchase and use money orders swiftly, adding days to the process of bill paying. Our citizens also will not have the service of sending certified letters or registered mail without driving 20 miles, thus an additional financial burden and hardship.

Many of the people in our community do not have internet access due to financial reasons or having no interest in computers. USPS.com is not an alternative for many of our citizens. Many people just don't trust purchasing or paying for anything online. For them it is all about security and going to the local post office to make purchases and send packages. We also prefer to support our local post office.

The CBU unit will not give us the service we require. There will be only two parcel lockers per unit. Therefore, only four people at most would be able to receive packages in one day. This is not reasonable or acceptable. Any packages that are undeliverable would be taken to State Center. Many of our citizens do not have the means to make the 20 mile trip to State Center and back. Especially necessary if it is medicine they are waiting for also creating a hardship. This is a disadvantage for our community.

The financial reasons for the closure of our post office do not add up. The building our post office is located in is owned by our city. The rent paid for our post office is \$200 per month. Our city pays for all

utilities used by our post office other than the phone and internet service. Currently there is no cost for snow removal, mowing or repairs for our post office to The Postal Service. If the CBU unit is installed, all snow service, lawn care and repairs will be paid for by The Postal Service.

The only employee of our post office is a part time employee who receives no benefits. We do not have a Postmaster which is not the same expense as an OIC. This unfairly inflates the expenses and economic savings to the Postal Service. For this reason I believe that false economic data is used to support this discontinuance decision.

This is a very low cost post office only being open 24 hours per week. The rural carrier is a full time career employee with full benefits. He will be working more hours if he is to provide anywhere close to the services that are currently available and would be required of him. Many of our citizens need help and advice as to what specifications are required in mailing packages, what options for the best rate are and many other questions and concerns that will be no longer available to those without a computer with internet access and an accurate weigh scale.

The closure of our post office will have a detrimental effect on our town's economy. Our businesses will travel 20 miles to State Center Post Office be able to mail out the same day costing them time and money. We are less likely to attract new businesses in a town with no post office. Our citizens may not be able to afford transportation costs to drive when needed to another town.

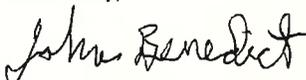
We do not live in a city where we could utilize a contract, community or village post office in an area business. Our small town post office is our only option for the maximum and effective service that we need.

The United States Postal Code, Title 39, Part 1, Chapter 1, 101 (b) states: "The Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining. No post office shall be closed for operating at a deficit. It is the specific intent of the Congress that effective postal service be insured to residents of both urban and rural communities."

The Postal Reorganization act states that we are entitled to the same efficient postal service provided to urban areas.

The citizens of Saint Anthony, Iowa request that the Postal Regulatory Commission examine the procedures in which the Postal Service came to the conclusion that any of the replacement services could possibly be considered the maximum degree of regular and effective service to the patrons of the office and reverse the decision to close the Saint Anthony Post Office

Sincerely,



John Benedict
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