

Comments of PDQ Mail Plus  
Docket No. MC2012-26  
August 6, 2012

I have been in the Mail and Parcel business in Larchmont, NY for nearly 19 years, and have operated as a CMRA for the entire time. I am very concerned about the Enhancements to PO Box Service in MC2012-26 as it seems to be a major vehicle for the US Postal Service to take unfair advantage of the current competitive situation.

PDQ Mail Plus is a part of the Approved Shipper program of the USPS, and as such, we try to act as a partner with USPS to provide postal services to my customers. Some customers find our store to be more convenient for them, in hours of operation, location, quality and speed of service, etc. and choose to use PDQ as their postal center. Yes, we are competitors as well – with mailbox services, as well as providing access to other parcel carriers, such as UPS, FedEx and DHL – but for many of our customers, we are their favorite access to the US Postal Service and the other carriers.

Currently, as a CMRA for the US Postal Service, we must strictly follow a set of regulations for proper administration of the mail receiving services. These include the need for proper identification of those receiving mail, quarterly reports to the local Postmaster to list all authorized persons who receive mail, strict addressing requirements, reporting of terminated receivers, and handling of mail after the termination of receiving services. We have a very detailed Mailbox Services Agreement which includes all the proper information, outlining to our customers what can be done and what can't be done. We cooperate with the US Postal Service in working to prevent fraudulent mail practices and those persons involved.

For years, PO Boxes have served individuals and businesses as a convenient way to receive mail. But there have been an increasing number of consumers who prefer to receive mail at CMRA locations, whether because of convenience, ability to have a street address, get packages and express documents from any carrier at the same location as they receive their mail, as well as numerous other benefits – often the multitude of services found at most CMRA locations.

But the proposed Enhancements are trying to change that, to allow PO Boxes to be used much like as at a CMRA, and at the same time, maintaining regulations that prevent CMRA's from acting more like a PO Box. Add to that the fact that our customer lists and contact information are required to be given to the US Postal Service, and there is no way to prevent the US Postal Service from using these lists to try to take our customers away from us.

The US Postal Service is trying to be our partner and our competitor at the same time, and this leads to unfair competition. We cannot compete with USPS in return – they don't provide us their lists of PO Box holders, nor should they, if we are competing on a fair and level playing field. It erodes the partnership relationship, and will put many CMRA locations out of business or in significant financial hardship. These CMRA locations support and complement the local post offices in offering postal products and services, and will end up hurting the communities that they serve.

I ask that the PO Box Enhancements be rejected, and that efforts to allow for fair and level competition between CMRA's and the US Postal Service be increased.

Charles F. McEntee  
PDQ Mail Plus  
2005 Palmer Avenue  
Larchmont, NY 10538  
914-833-1133  
pdqlarchmont@gmail.com