



BILL ROSENDAHL

City of Los Angeles
Councilmember, Eleventh District

Committees

Chair, Transportation
Vice Chair, Trade, Commerce & Tourism
Member, Budget & Finance
Member, Ad Hoc on Economic Recovery &
Reinvestment
Member, Board of Referred Powers

November 23, 2011

David E. Williams
Vice President, Network Operations
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-7100

Diana K. Alvarado
Pacific Facilities Service Office
United States Postal Service
395 Oyster Point Boulevard, Suite 225
South San Francisco, CA 94080-0300

Re: Requirements of 39 C.F.R. § 241.4(f) to Comply with Local Planning and Zoning Requirements and Building Codes/Proposed Closure of Historic Venice, California Main Post Office and Proposed Relocation of Retail Services in Venice, California

Dear Mr. Williams and Ms. Alvarado:

As you know, I support retention of the Venice Main Post Office as a Post Office and encourage the Postal Service to re-consider its decision to sell this historic structure.

In support of this request for re-consideration, I am writing to offer the assistance of my Council Office staff and that of the City of Los Angeles' Planning Department and Building and Safety Department to assure that all pertinent facts concerning your relocation proposal are known by all parties.

As you know, 39 C.F.R. § 241.4(f) provides:

(f) *Planning, zoning, building codes.* In carrying out customer service facilities projects, it is the policy of the Postal Service to comply with local planning and zoning requirements and building codes consistent with prudent business practices and unique postal requirements.

Westchester Office

7166 W. Manchester Boulevard
Westchester, CA 90045
(310) 568-8772
(310) 410-3946 Fax

City Hall

200 N. Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473-7011
(213) 473-6926 Fax

West Los Angeles Office

1645 Corinth Avenue, Room 201
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 575-8461
(310) 575-8305 Fax



In order to promote a partnership with local officials and assure conformance with local building codes, plans and drawings will be sent to the appropriate building department or other officials for review. Where payment of fees is normally required of private entities, the Postal Service will pay a reasonable fee for the review. The Postal Service will give local public officials written notice of any timely, written objections or recommendations that it does not plan to adopt or implement.

To my knowledge, the Postal Service has not submitted plans or drawings to the City of Los Angeles for the proposed relocation of the VMPO to the Venice Carrier Annex, which we understand would follow the closure and sale of the current Post Office structure. Such plans and drawings should initially be submitted to the City's Department of Building and Safety, but inevitably would also require clearances by both the City Planning Department and the California Coastal Commission, a separate entity with jurisdiction in the Coastal Zone that includes the property.

To assure that the USPS does not paint itself into an unfortunate situation where it commits to sell the Post Office and then later finds that the Annex facility cannot meet City and Coastal Act requirements for parking, setbacks, landscaping and handicapped facilities, I invite the USPS to meet with me and other concerned city officials regarding the proposed relocation. This "due diligence" would give all parties an opportunity to review the USPS plans for the Annex to determine if they can meet City and State requirements, allow the USPS to gauge the true costs of relocation, and better assess the selling the existing structure.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss your plans for these two postal facilities.

Regards,



BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilmember, 11th District

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congresswoman Janice Hahn
Congressman Henry Waxman
Ruth Goldway, Chair, U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Carmen Trutanich, Los Angeles City Attorney
Michael LoGrande, Director of Planning
Bud Ovrom, Director of Building and Safety