



September 19, 2011

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4671

Dear Congressman Pallone:

This responds to your August 18 letter to Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe, regarding the Hazlet Post Office.

I recognize your interest in ensuring that the residents of Hazlet continue to have convenient access to essential postal services. As you are aware, the U.S. Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. As a result of dramatic declines in mail volume, the Postal Service continues to experience significantly reduced revenue. In fact, over the past five years, mail volume has declined by 43.1 billion pieces, customer visits have decreased by 200 million, and retail transactions have diminished by \$2 billion.

In order to sustain universal mail service to the American people, we are taking every action within our control to cut costs and streamline operations across the organization. These actions include consolidating some of our mail processing operations, adjusting delivery routes nationwide to current workload and mail volume, and changing the retail hours at some Post Offices to be more consistent with customer traffic patterns. Additionally, we are identifying savings opportunities that can be achieved by consolidating two or more delivery units serviced by the same mail processing facility. The consolidation of delivery units allows us to reduce operating costs, increase operational efficacy, and utilize our transportation vehicles more efficiently, while still providing excellent service to our customers.

South Jersey District postal officials confirmed that they are consolidating delivery operations of the Hazlet Post Office into the Matawan Post Office, scheduled to be effective on November 19. They informed us that the retail window and Post Office box operations will remain at their present location; only the letter carriers and mail distribution clerks will be moved. The transfer of delivery operations should be virtually seamless with no reduction of service standards. District officials further informed us that there are no current plans to close the Hazlet Post Office at this time.

If I can be of assistance in other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marita Hines".

Marita Hines
Government Relations Representative