

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3201

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write today regarding my recent inquiry into sending a mobile retail unit to Sound Beach while the Post Office continues repairs and to further inquire about immediate remedies to the closure of the Post Office.

I was disappointed to hear the United States Postal Service “will not be deploying a mobile retail unit to Sound Beach.” I understand these units, as noted from a member of your staff, are “used as an extraordinary measure when there is little to no access to postal retail services.” However, my constituents and I believe this is one of those cases.

To reiterate some of the issues I referenced in my August 8, 2023 letter to you, the closure of the Sound Beach Post Office has caused a severe inconvenience to my constituents, more than you may believe. Many in the community have gathered in protest to demand their post office be reopened as the repairs to the building have gone on long enough and no timetable was ever provided. On September 6th, over 40 of my constituents took to the streets to show their support for reopening the Post Office and their frustration with how both the landlord and USPS have handled this situation. I wholeheartedly believe that providing the hamlet of Sound Beach with a mobile retail unit would have been a good way to show these people the United States Postal Service’s commitment to listening to their customers' concerns.

On September 20th, my district staff requested answers to nine questions to which the Customer Relations Coordinator for the New York 2nd District’s USPS provided responses. When I asked if the Town of Brookhaven has had inspectors visit the Sound Beach Post Office, I was surprised the response did not answer the question. Instead, it indicated the USPS has only had their independently commissioned inspectors visit the site. The Town of Brookhaven subsequently asked for permission to enter the building and to conduct an inspection. Their request was granted by the Customer Relations Coordinator and scheduled for Thursday, October 12, at 2 pm. However, in an unexpected turn of events, the USPS has now declined this scheduled inspection with no explanation as to why.

As the representative of the Town of Brookhaven, I have taken on the duty of finding solutions to ease the concerns of the Sound Beach community. To continue the dialogue in an effort to find an expeditious solution to this issue, which has been ongoing for nearly six months now, I have a few questions.

1. As it appears significant structural repairs have been made without a Town building permit, would it be possible to grant access to the Sound Beach Post Office to the Town of Brookhaven for the purpose of an inspection with one of my staff present?
2. What is the formal process, if any, conducted by the USPS for acquiring a “mobile retail unit?”
3. I understand that the USPS has been paying the landlord rent for the several months the Post Office has not been in use. With that in mind, would you halt payments to the landlord until the Post Office is fully operational again?
4. Additionally, would the USPS consider taking legal action to recuperate the funds spent paying the landlord while the Post Office has not been operational?

I understand that structural repairs take time and there's only so much you can do about that. However, I believe there is a clear opportunity to rectify the situation and provide relief to my constituents. I hope to hear back from you soon. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact my Director of Operations, Peter Ganley, at (631) 289-1097.

Sincerely,



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress

kjhg