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2020 AUG 21 PM 3:27

Memo

To: John Russo, City Manager

From: Melissa Fox, Councilmember *MF*
Farrah Khan, Councilmember *FK*

Date: August 21, 2020

RE: **Resolution – United States Postal Service**

Please place a resolution on the agenda for the meeting of the Irvine City Council on September 8, 2020 urging the United States Postmaster General to end all actions that slow down or undermine the prompt delivery mail services.

Recently, the United states Postmaster General has unlawfully and unilaterally implemented a series of revisions to the postal service's protocols and procedures. The changes threaten to undermine the timely delivery of mail across the county, including the City of Irvine. We have received complaints from Irvine residents that mailboxes have been removed from various locations around the city – limiting access to postal services for our community. Such changes to the postal service's protocol threaten our resident's basic right to affordable and equitable delivery of essentials through the United States Postal Service.

Especially during the current COVID-19 pandemic it is essential for all residents – especially veterans, seniors, and small businesses, to receive deliveries in a timely manner. Residents rely on the United States Postal Service to receive medications, stimulus checks, social security checks, census forms, rent checks, medical supplies, election ballots, and other essential items.

CC: City Council
City Clerk
City Attorney

Attachments:

Attachment 1: Draft Resolution

CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. ____

URGING THE U.S. POSTMASTER GENERAL TO END ACTIONS THAT SLOW DOWN OR UNDERMINE THE PROMPT DELIVERY OF THE U.S. MAIL, ESPECIALLY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution "to bind the country together through the correspondence of the people"; and

WHEREAS, The Postal Service guarantees universal delivery to everyone, ensuring affordable and equitable communication and delivery as a basic right; and is indispensable, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, to the American people, especially veterans, seniors, and small businesses, delivering medications, stimulus checks, social security checks, census forms, rent checks, medical supplies, and election ballots;

WHEREAS, The Postal Service is one of the most important employers in the United States, providing family sustaining jobs, especially to veterans;

WHEREAS, the United States Postmaster General has unilaterally implemented a series of revisions to the postal service's protocols and procedures that threaten to undermine the timely delivery of mail across the country, including Irvine. These unilateral changes have included:

- Removing mailbox locations around the country, including in Irvine and other cities in Orange County;
- Decommissioning mail-sorting machines, with severe reductions in sorting capacity and the speed of delivery;
- Severely limiting employees from working overtime, despite reported increases in demand and the need to compensate for employees who are out sick or at home quarantining; and
- Instructing letter carriers to leave mail behind if it delays routes, running counter to the training postal workers traditionally receive to ensure prompt delivery of the mail;

WHEREAS, the USPS has warned several states, including California, that it could no longer guarantee timely compliance with all state election deadlines and delivery of all ballots cast by mail for the presidential election.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF IRVINE URGES THE UNITED STATES POSTMASTER GENERAL TO IMMEDIATELY CEASE TAKING ANY ACTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO REMOVAL OF POST BOXES, DECOMMISSIONING OF MAIL SORTING EQUIPMENT, AND RESTRICTING MAIL CARRIER OVERTIME, THAT SLOW DOWN OR UNDERMINE THE PROMPT DELIVERY OF THE U.S. MAIL, ESPECIALLY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of Irvine at the meeting held on the ____ day of September 2020.