

# Communities and Postal Workers United (CPWU)

FALL 2023 -- *No Closures! No Cuts! No Delay of the Mail!* - [www.cpwunited.com](http://www.cpwunited.com)

## “DON’T MESS WITH IB” – COMMUNITY RALLIES TO SAVE POST OFFICE

*As part of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy’s “Delivering for America” plan, “spoke” post offices are being emptied of their letter carriers, who then sort and deliver the mail out of large hubs, called Sorting and Delivery Centers (S&DC). Although the USPS denies that post offices will be closed as a result of the displacement of letter carriers, the community and postal workers of Imperial Beach know better. (The first known closure due to the establishment of an S&DC is happening in Topeka, Kansas. The USPS calls it a “relocation” and claims the Sherwood Carrier Annex is not really a post office but an “annex”)*

IMPERIAL BEACH, Calif. (by Misha DiBono, Fox5 San Diego)—Imperial Beach residents are concerned their only post office will soon close, and they’re taking preemptive steps to fight back.

Raising their voices in advance of what they say looks like the inevitable, union members, postal workers, the mayor and representatives from Assemblyman Juan Vargas’ office want to send a clear message to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy.

Mayor Paloma Aguirre says they are against any modifications.

“We are in opposition to any changes happening at the post office, especially a closure,” Aguirre said during a rally on Monday. “Because as of today, we have not had a clear response that if the lease expires for this post office, they won’t go elsewhere.”

According to Bob Waterhouse, president of the local postal workers union, on Sept. 9, the staff will be cut to two people managing the large, old building at Donox Avenue and Emery Street. It’s been suggested that this is part of the postmaster general’s larger strategic plan to ultimately close all smaller, “low-traffic” post offices in favor of consolidating into larger hubs.

“The Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has rewritten the rulebook on how to close a post office, whereas in the past 50 years or so, the communities have always had the last say on this,” Waterhouse said to FOX 5. “He’s rewritten this manual to give him arbitrary power to just close a post office. He doesn’t have to tell anybody about it nor does he have to listen to anyone about it. So instead of going from the bottom up, when it comes to closing the post office, it goes from the top down. He just points and says, ‘close that post office.’”

Waterhouse says he believes the lease on the land is up in 2025, and that LeJoy will let the lease go.

“You just went from about 25 or so employees in one big building to two employees,” Waterhouse added. “So in a couple years when the lease is up, are they going to keep a building with two employees in it?”

U.S. Postal Service sent FOX 5 the following statement Tuesday:

“The comments by Mr. Waterhouse do not reflect reality and are deliberately deceptive. We are not closing the Imperial Beach Post Office. Period. We have conveyed this message to city leadership as well as to our employees.”



*Over 2,000 postal carriers have been assaulted or robbed since 2020 with 305 carriers targeted in 2023 alone. The “Arrow Key” — which every carrier must have on them as they make their rounds — is worth thousands of dollars to criminal gangs which assault the workers to steal their keys. The arrow keys can be sold for thousands of dollars on criminal networks to access the boxes they open. Mail has a new value now that checks can be “washed” and re-written for large amounts. Electronic locks are being “piloted” in some cities. (photo of Chicago rally by Scott Marshall, People’s World, Aug. 8, 2023)*

## POSTAL WORKERS, RESIDENTS PROTEST OREGON “CONSOLIDATION”

*Reports started to spread that mail posted in Southern Oregon will be no longer be processed in Medford and will be “consolidated” more than four hours away in a big facility In Portland for sortation. This will cost 30 USPS jobs in Medford and delay local mail in the area.*

*The American Postal Workers Union local in Medford started a public information campaign which culminated in a successful Stop Consolidation rally on August 5.*

*Postal management suddenly announced that there would be a public hearing on August 9 to solicit comments on their plan.*

*Workers and local businesspeople and other postal customers showed up at the hearing to criticize the plan.*

*(Jefferson Public Radio, by Roman Battaglia) ... “We do not want to lose jobs. We do not want to lose family members or friends,” said Jesse Smith, a postal carrier in Medford. “Because some people cannot afford to move to Portland for a job. This is their life here, and it’s like you don’t even care.”...*

Small business owners also spoke about the impact of these changes.

“Our growers and makers are a key part of our economy, and this consolidation would significantly hinder their ability to compete in the traded sector,” said Abigail Schilling, owner of a Medford based co-working space...

USPS officials did not respond to questions at the meeting, but said they would answer them at a later date.

**KEEP UP ON THE LATEST FIGHTBACK!**  
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**[savethepostoffice.com](http://savethepostoffice.com)** **[bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService](http://bit.ly/SaveOurPostalService)**

## PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON HEAT AND SMOKE STANDARDS

Whereas: Extreme heat and hazardous air quality, especially from wildfire smoke, are increasingly conditions faced by letter carriers, as the climate warms,

Whereas: The State of Oregon (plus California, Washington, Minnesota, Nevada, and Colorado) have enforceable outside heat standards with regard to rest breaks, water, and acclimatization, and

Whereas: The Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have a set of national, non-enforceable guidelines for employers with regard to rest, water, and acclimatization in extreme heat, and

Whereas: In recent years, Oregon has experienced heat domes with temperatures at which the CDC advises no heavy (ie. letter carrying) outdoor work, and

Whereas: In recent years, Oregon has experienced wildfire smoke with air quality of hazardous levels at which, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, workers should not be outside, even with N100 masks, and

Whereas: The USPS has shown an unwillingness to enforce CDC/OSHA/NIOSH heat standards and EPA Air Quality standards and has ordered, intimidated, and bullied letter carriers into carrying mail in conditions of unsafe heat and air quality,

Whereas: Letter carriers are increasingly experiencing debilitating illness, stress, stroke and even death from extreme heat and air quality, therefore be it

Resolved: that NALC Branch 82 membership recommends that the NALC negotiate, on the national and local level, with the USPS for enforceable extreme heat and air quality standards based on either local state or federal CDC/OSHA/NIOSH and EPA guidelines whichever has stronger safety standards and requirements ...

## SIGN THE PETITION TO POSTAL GOVERNORS STOP SILENCING THE PUBLIC !

The Postal Board of Governors oversees the operation of the United States Postal Service, an essential and constitutionally-mandated public service that reaches every community in the country. Yet the Board's only formal contact with the people whose interests they are supposed to represent is a brief public meeting at least four times a year, broadcast online.

In the public comment section following the adjournment of the most recent meeting, commenters who had pre-registered to address the Board were given only 25 seconds each in which to introduce themselves and raise their question or concern. At PBoG meetings in years past, the time allocated for comments in person or via online link was 3 minutes.

The obvious conclusion is that the Postal Board of Governors does not want to hear from the people they are supposed to serve. To correct that impression, the Board should make the following changes in their public sessions immediately:

1. All commenters should get up to 3 minutes to speak.
2. The comment period should be carried, recorded and posted on the PBoG webpage alongside the recording of the formal session.
3. All Board members should be encouraged to respond to points raised by the public.

Click, sign and share —



<https://www.change.org/p/postal-governors-stop-silencing-the-public>



*San Antonio, Texas letter carriers protest denial of water and rest breaks in extreme heat. Eugene Gates, Jr., a San Antonio carrier, collapsed and died on his route at 4pm, June 30, when the heat index was 110 degrees. Gates had recently been disciplined for "stationary events" and likely was not taking enough breaks.*

**PMG Louis DeJoy is rolling out a massive consolidation of postal facilities into large Sorting and Delivery Centers, which will displace letter carriers from their local post offices, excess clerks and disrupt retail service.**

Currently none of the national postal unions nor any Congressional committees are calling for national hearings on this Sorting & Delivery Center transformation. So, it's up to us to build pressure to slow, pause or stop this bad plan.

Do you live or work in one of the first 200 towns scheduled to be hit by this massive disruption in the next six months?

Find the list here — [savethepostoffice.com](https://www.savethepostoffice.com)

Here's a guide to organizing a townhall from APWU

<https://tinyurl.com/PostalTownMeeting>

Let us know what you're doing —

email us at [cpwunited1@gmail.com](mailto:cpwunited1@gmail.com)

Sign the petition at <https://tinyurl.com/StopSDCs>

## POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION MEMBER PROTESTS FUNDING CUT AND ATTACK ON INDEPENDENCE

Michael Kubayanda, the Postal Regulatory Commission chairman, recently suggested the Postal Board of Governors was improperly interfering with the commission's operations.

"I appreciate the governors' approval of a budget, but am disappointed that they declined to fund the commission's modest request of \$22.6 million, less than 0.03% of Postal Service revenues," Kubayanda said. "Most importantly, this process raised red flags about potential risks to the commission's independence."

Kubayanda had previously issued a public white paper saying his agency requires more staff and resources to keep pace with the changes underway at USPS.

Postmaster Louis DeJoy has called the PRC an obstacle to progress and repeatedly requested they not stand in the way of his reforms.

## Postal Board of Governors Meeting

Tues. Nov. 14, 4pm ET, USPS HQ in DC

Raise Wages, End High Turnover, Restore Service !

Save Local Post Offices ! Stop Mail Carrier Displacement!

Join the PBOG meeting for public comment

Sign-up to testify (one week prior) whether in person or virtual

<https://about.usps.com/who/leadership/board-governors/briefings/>

If you plan on coming in person, let's coordinate our efforts...  
email [cpwunited1@gmail.com](mailto:cpwunited1@gmail.com)

