



April 25, 2014

Final Determination Regarding the Relocation of Retail Services in West Chester, Pennsylvania

In accordance with the procedures set forth at 39 C.F.R. 241.4(6), this is the final review determination of the Vice President, Facilities of the United States Postal Service ("Postal Service") with respect to the Postal Service's March 7, 2014, decision ("Decision") regarding relocation of retail services from the West Chester Post Office, located at 101 E. Gay Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania (the "West Chester Post Office"), to a yet-to-be determined location.

Following the Decision, the Postal Service received requests for review from three customers (hereinafter referred to as "the appellants"). I have carefully considered all of the concerns expressed in each of the requests for review, along with relevant portions of the project file relating to the relocation proposal. While I appreciate the concerns raised, for the reasons set forth below, I will not set aside the Postal Service's Decision.

The appellants expressed concerns about (i) the new location's convenience and parking, (ii) continued availability of the existing PO Box assignments, (iii) the financial merits of the relocation decision, and (iv) closing the existing Post Office without a replacement.

The Postal Service will only consider relocation sites that are convenient and suitable (including parking) for our customers and that will meet all postal operational needs. Additionally, if a prospective purchaser makes a reasonable offer to lease right-sized space within the existing West Chester Post Office building back to the Postal Service for continued postal retail operations, then the Postal Service will consider that offer. The same services that are currently provided to our customers will be provided at the new location. The Postal Service's goal is to secure a location as close to the current site as possible and within the same ZIP Code. The Postal Service does not anticipate changing PO Box assignments.

The Postal Service conducted a study that concluded the West Chester Post Office has significant excess space – approximately nine times as much space as is required to support the retail operations. It also determined that a sale of the West Chester Post Office would yield significant and much-needed revenue, and relocation to right-sized space would further optimize the Postal Service's facility network. Right-sizing our space, increasing revenue, and optimizing our facilities network are required to satisfy the Postal Service's statutory obligations under 39 USC 403 to plan, develop, promote, and provide adequate and efficient postal services at fair and reasonable rates and fees, and to establish and maintain postal facilities providing access to essential postal services consistent with reasonable economies of postal operations.

The Postal Service will not cease operations at the West Chester Post Office unless and until a replacement facility is open and operating as a Post Office.

While the Postal Service is sensitive to the impact of this determination on its customers and the West Chester community, I am satisfied that the Decision properly considered the community input and is consistent with Postal Service objectives. Postal Service operations are not supported by tax dollars. To be self-sustaining, the Postal Service must make decisions that ensure it provides adequate and affordable postal services in a manner that is as efficient and economical as possible.

Accordingly, I conclude that there is no basis to set aside the Decision to relocate the retail services from the West Chester Post Office. This is the final determination of the Postal Service with respect to this matter, and there is no right to further administrative or judicial review of the Decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TAS', written in a cursive style.

Tom A. Samra
Vice President, Facilities