

CHARITY R. CLARK
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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September 30, 2024

Louis DeJoy, Postmaster General
United States Postal Service – Headquarters
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0004

Via Email: Louis.Dejoy@usps.gov

Re: The Montpelier, VT Post Office

Dear Postmaster DeJoy:

Nearly fifteen months have passed since the Winooski River devastated our city's downtown in July 2023, flooding multiple businesses, state office buildings, and homes. Today, almost every commercial property in downtown Montpelier is back in service except our United States Post Office, which sits vacant and gutted, just a short walk from my office and our Statehouse. Vermont's capital city and our 8,000 residents have now gone without a fully functional retail post office for over a year.

I have actively monitored the progress of the replacement post office over this past year and was heartened in late March 2024 to hear of plans to open a full retail post office before the summer of 2024. The summer is behind us, and yet no post office has opened. The lack of meaningful access to postal services means our older Vermonters face significant barriers to obtaining needed prescriptions through the mail, our small businesses must engage in costly alternatives to shipping when they cannot rely on their local post office, and citizens are frustrated, daily, at the continued inability to easily buy stamps, pay bills, ship gifts to loved ones, or access any of the other basic retail postal services every other capital in the country enjoys.

My office is cognizant of the legal obligations on the Postal Service when it wishes to relocate, close, or consolidate a post office, whether temporarily as the result of a natural disaster like our July 2023 flood, or permanently. I am not aware that the USPS has followed any of these regulatory requirements or timelines with regards to the Montpelier post office. The text and spirit of these regulations require the USPS to act as quickly as feasible to restore access to postal services in the event of an emergency and to maintain active communication with the community on its plans to replace or relocate an affected post office.

Given the lack of action and communication from the USPS, many in this community and throughout Vermont believe that accessible and functional postal service in Vermont's capital city is not a priority for the USPS or that service for rural America is not part of the promise to Deliver for America. I certainly hope that is not the case.

By this letter, I am requesting that the USPS provide a thorough and public update to my office and to the local officials in the City of Montpelier within the next fifteen (15) calendar days on: (1) the current status of and near-term plan for retail and post office box postal service in Montpelier, (2) a detailed timeline for the renewal of full and accessible retail and post office box service, and (3) an explanation of how public and community input has been or will be included in this planning process.

I look forward to your reply. In the meantime, my office will continue to assess what additional measures may be called for to ensure progress is made toward opening a post office in Montpelier before the snow flies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charity R. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Charity R. Clark

Cc: Cindi Tabbot, USPS District Manager (ME-NH-VT) – Cindi.J.Tabbot@usps.gov
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