

From: hoylman@nysenate.gov

Subject: Old Chelsea Station update - April 11 Public Forum at Fulton Center

Date: Mon, 18 Mar 2013 19:03:55 -0400

Dear Constituent,

I am writing to update you on the United States Postal Service's (USPS) plans regarding the sale of Old Chelsea Station, located at 217 West 18th Street.

As you may know, since late January, when I became aware that USPS was contemplating the sale of Old Chelsea Station, I have been working with U.S. Representatives Jerrold Nadler and Carolyn Maloney, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and New York State Assembly Members Dick Gottfried and Deborah Glick to save our postal facility, the services it provides, and the historic building that houses it.

On February 6, we jointly wrote to the Postmaster General urging USPS to maintain services in the Old Chelsea Station and to examine all scenarios that would allow it to continue providing services at the site while repurposing the excess space that is no longer needed prior to moving forward with any proposal to sell the property.

Regrettably, USPS is moving forward with the review process for its proposal to sell the building and relocate the services elsewhere in the community. Furthermore, as members of my staff and representatives of other elected officials learned in a recent meeting with USPS representatives, USPS started the clock on the initial 60-day public comment period on the proposal on February 19.

Immediately after that meeting, I joined my colleagues in government in writing to the Postmaster General, expressing our outrage that the public comment period began without any direct communication to the public from USPS regarding its plans and the process for public engagement, either in an official release to the community or at a public meeting. We called on USPS to restart its 60-day public comment period when such a meeting is held and urged USPS to take immediate steps to inform the public of its plans and of the process for public engagement.

To date, USPS has not committed to restarting its initial public comment period for this proposal, which is slated to run only until April 19. While there will be additional opportunities for public comment at subsequent stages in the review process should USPS decide to proceed with its plans, I will continue to fight alongside my colleagues to compel the agency to start the clock on this initial stage only after it has publicly presented its plans.

In addition, I have learned that USPS will be presenting its plans at the Manhattan Borough Board meeting this Thursday, March 21 at 8:30am at One Centre Street, 19th Floor. While this meeting is technically open to the public, Borough President Stringer, my other colleagues and I have conveyed to USPS that this in no way meets the

definition of a well-publicized public meeting and by itself is unacceptable.

USPS has agreed to hold a separate, truly public meeting at which its plans for Old Chelsea Station will be presented. That meeting will be held Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 6:30PM at Fulton Center Auditorium, 119 Ninth Avenue (between 17th and 18th Streets). My colleagues and I are working to ensure that it is well-publicized and well-attended. To that end, I encourage you to make your voice heard at the April 11 event and to share this email with any individuals or groups who might be interested.

Although USPS has not formally provided information on to whom or how the public should submit comments on the proposal, which it has yet to publicly present, it is my understanding that you may share your concerns with:

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United States Postal Service
2 Congress Street, Room 8
Milford, MA 01757
Joseph.J.Mulvey@usps.gov

I assure you that I will continue to fight for more robust public review on this proposal and against the sale and relocation of services presently at Old Chelsea Station.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator
27th District