



February 6, 2013

The Honorable Pat Donahoe  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260-0010

Dear Postmaster General Donahoe:

As the local elected officials representing the Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea, we are writing concerning the Old Chelsea Post Office, located at 217 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011.

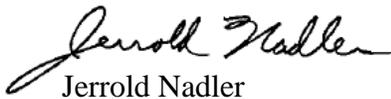
It has come to our attention that the United States Postal Service (USPS) intends to sell the Old Chelsea Station and relocate to a smaller facility in the area. We understand USPS is facing serious budgetary constraints due to reduced mail and declining revenue. However, we strongly urge USPS to maintain services in the Old Chelsea Station. Prior to moving forward with any sale of this property, USPS should examine all scenarios that allow it to continue providing services at this site while repurposing the excess space that is no longer needed. Any reduction in services or relocation of services outside the immediate area is unacceptable. This station is heavily relied on by the local community on a daily basis, in particular, by the many seniors and disabled individuals who reside in the surrounding area. Furthermore, the Chelsea community is experiencing a boom in residential and commercial development that is adding to its base of postal customers.

We are also concerned over USPS's lack of internal clarity on the sale of Old Chelsea Station and the way in which its sale came to the attention of our offices and our constituents. We first learned of the sale from a copy of a January 11, 2013 letter to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreations and Historic Preservation that had been posted in the Old Chelsea Station. This letter was posted several weeks before any planned notice to the area elected officials, and caused confusion and panic among community residents. In addition, when our offices contacted USPS for further clarification on what was happening, we were provided with inaccurate and conflicting information.

USPS has since clarified that it intends to sell the Old Chelsea Station and relocate services. We understand that USPS plans to comply with federal requirements to hold a public hearing and have a public input process which will provide the community with the opportunity to comment on USPS's intended sale and relocation. We urge you to begin this process as soon as possible.

We are committed to working with USPS to ensure that residents and businesses in the community do not lose a vital resource. We ask that USPS immediately communicate directly with our offices in advance of any public review process and that you alert us immediately to any updates. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

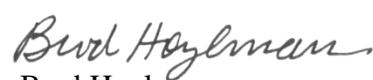
Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. Representative



Carolyn Maloney  
U.S. Representative



Brad Hoylman  
State Senator



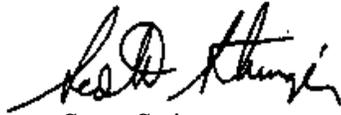
Richard N. Gottfried  
Assembly Member



Deborah J. Glick  
Assembly Member



Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker, City Council



Scott Stringer  
Manhattan Borough President