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Immediate Release
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New York Metro Area Postal Union calls for an immediate moratorium on the sale of the historic Bronx GPO and for an independent investigation:

Did racism dictate the Postal Service's planned sale of this post office?

New York, NY – January 14, 2014 – When President Jonathan Smith of the New York Metro Area Postal Union learned that the United States Postal Service was going ahead with its plans to sell the historic Bronx GPO, he wanted to know what was the rationale for selling Bronx GPO, while, at the same time, deciding not to sell the Old Chelsea Station post office in Manhattan. Each post office was built in the 1930s in the center of their communities and has remained a vital part of the life of its community for decades. The Bronx GPO is equally or even more important to the people of the Bronx than Old Chelsea Station is to the people of Manhattan's Chelsea community.

After studying the issue, President Smith has called for a moratorium on the sale of Bronx GPO and for an independent investigation to determine if the economic and racial makeup of the community was the determining factor in the go ahead to sell Bronx GPO.

In Chelsea, all the elected officials signed a letter to the Postal Service calling for Old Chelsea Station not to be sold. In the Bronx, all the elected officials signed a letter to the Postal Service calling for Bronx

GPO not to be sold.

In both Chelsea and the Bronx, community residents, cultural institutions and businesses argued for the retention of their post office.

Bronx GPO is an historic landmark that contains original artwork that is a treasure for the community. Old Chelsea Station, too, is an historic landmark that contains original artwork that is a treasure for the community.

Did the Postal Service treat each community equally? In Chelsea, the Postal Service made its presentation of its plans to sell the post office at a highly publicized town hall meeting held on a weekday evening at a venue that was large enough to accommodate many people where community residents could easily make their sentiments known. In the Bronx, the Postal Service barely notified anyone of its intent to hold a meeting on the fate of Bronx GPO. A meeting was held on a weekday morning, making it virtually impossible for working people to attend to express their feelings about their post office being sold. Did the Postal Service, from the beginning, treat the people of the Bronx differently than the people of the Chelsea community?

Bronx GPO, the facility being sold, serves a community that is mostly Latino and African-American. The community served by the Chelsea Post Office, where the Postal Service decided to retain the post office, is overwhelmingly white.

This isn't the first time that the Postal Service has had its sight on providing less service to the people of the Bronx. A few years ago, the Postal Service released a list of 34 post offices in New York City it planned to close: 17 of them were in the Bronx. In 2011, the Postal Service eliminated mail processing in the Bronx, delaying mail delivery throughout the entire borough of 1.4 million people.

It is time to determine what role racism plays in these decisions, and hold accountable the people in the Postal Service responsible for this

behavior. The New York Metro Area Postal Union is calling for an investigation by an independent agency to find out if racism was the reason for the disparate treatment of the people of the Bronx and demands an immediate halt to the sale of Bronx GPO until a determination is made.

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