



Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Leahy and Members of the City Council
FROM: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
DATE: September 8, 2020
SUBJECT: USPS Support Letter

Motion by C.Chau on 8/25/2020 - Req. City Council Support The Enhancement Of The USPS Through November 2020 Elections For The Successful Outreach And Tabulation Of The Vote-By-Mail Program Within The City; And Request City Mgr. Immediately Notify Our Representatives In Congress (House And Senate) Of The Council Action And Urge Their Immediate Support.

As requested by the City Council, I have submitted the attached letters to Senator Warren, Senator Markey and Congresswoman Trahan urging their continued support of legislation aimed at protecting mail delivery through the United States Postal Service in light of recent reports of operational changes implemented by the Postmaster General. The letter emphasizes the importance of reliable mail service as we approach the November General Election in order to ensure that all mail-in ballots that are placed in the mail are delivered in a timely manner and that voters have confidence in the vote-by-mail process. My office will continue to monitor developments related to USPS operations as well as any implications on mail delivery locally.

Eileen M. Donoghue
City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

August 31, 2020

Congresswoman Lori Trahan
1616 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congresswoman Trahan,

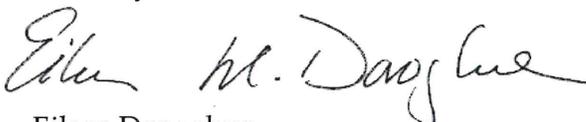
On behalf of the City of Lowell and the Lowell City Council, I would like to express our gratitude for your continued opposition to the disconcerting policies and practices recently implemented by the Postmaster General which stand to jeopardize the reliability of United States Postal Service operations. We appreciate your vote in favor of H.R. 8015, *the Delivering for America Act*. Left in place, the reported operational changes, including the removal of high capacity mail sorting machines, will have significant adverse effects on Lowell residents who rely on timely mail delivery for a host of critical and, in some cases, life-sustaining purposes.

As you have articulated throughout the recent public discourse on this issue, dependable mail delivery is vital to the well-being of millions of Americans at all times, but even more so at this time as we continue to confront the Coronavirus crisis. Delays to mail delivery would impose undue hardship on the countless individuals in Lowell that count on the Postal Service to deliver prescription medication and government benefits, to cite several critical examples.

Disruptions derived from these operational changes also threaten the ability of voters to safely cast their ballot as we prepare for a General Election in which all Massachusetts voters are entitled to vote by mail. In Lowell, more than 12,000 requests for mail-in ballots were received ahead of the September State Primary Election. That number is expected to increase significantly ahead of the General Election. With the integrity of the election and public health in mind, it is imperative both that all ballots placed in the mail are delivered on time and that all voters have confidence in the validity of this method of voting.

Given the potential severity of the consequences which could result from the modifications to the United States Postal Service, it is our request that you remain active in opposing any measure which may disrupt mail delivery and urge you to continue to support legislative action aimed at preserving reliable and timely mail delivery.

Sincerely,



Eileen Donoghue
City Manager

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City Manager

Kara Keefe Mullin
Assistant City Manager

August 31, 2020

Senator Edward Markey
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey,

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Eileen Donoghue
City Manager

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Assistant City Manager

August 31, 2020

Senator Elizabeth Warren
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warren,

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City Manager