

MICHAEL P. BELL
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August 10, 2009

Mr. John Potter
Postmaster General
US Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Potter:

As a life-long resident of Toledo, Ohio, I was disappointed to read the news last week that the US Postal Service is looking at closing two of our community's neighborhood post offices.

The Midtown station office and the Point Place office serve two vibrant parts of our community. They also provide an important business and communication link for members of our community who rely on "good old snail mail" rather than internet-based tools to pay their bills, invoice their customers and communicate with friends and family.

As a long-time public servant, I'm aware of the reality that government faces – strapped budgets with increasing service needs. I'm also aware that as public servants, we have a duty to meet these needs. Many people have come to expect fewer home delivery days and reduced store-front hours. While undesirable, these are acceptable solutions to the ongoing budget difficulties the postal service faces.

There is a difference however between doing with less and having none. To the residents of Point Place and Central City Toledo, elimination of services is not an acceptable solution. On their behalf, and as a Toledo resident, I ask you to consider other options in your study rather than simply the closure of community service facilities like the Midtown and Point Place stations.

I do not envy your position, but as a former public servant and government leader, I ask you to think creatively in order to preserve important services to those who need them in the community. I would be more than happy to offer my personal assistance in bringing together members of the community to offer input on this issue as we look for a mutually acceptable level of service and investment.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Bell

CC: Ruth Y. Goldway, PRC Chairman
Scott R. Bower, Acting Postmaster, Lucas County, OH