



# CITY OF SPANISH FORT

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November 25, 2020

The Honorable Louis DeJoy  
Postmaster General  
of the United States  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260

RE: Contract Postal Unit in Spanish Fort, Alabama

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am writing this letter regarding the Contract Postal Unit (CPU) in Spanish Fort, Alabama. The City of Spanish Fort is a growing municipality and is presently served by a CPU, which includes approximately seven hundred post office boxes. Public officials and local residents have been working to expand the services of the CPU and have been requesting the construction of a full service post office within the City of Spanish Fort to serve the municipality and surrounding community for years. It has come to our attention that, instead of increasing the services offered at the CPU in Spanish Fort and/or moving toward the construction of a full service post office, the United States Postal Service (USPS) is in fact attempting to reduce the services offered to the City of Spanish Fort and the surrounding community by replacing the present CPU with a kiosk to be located within an existing building or retail store, and it is our understanding that the approximately seven hundred post office boxes serviced at the existing CPU will be moved to the Post Office in the City of Daphne. This is totally unacceptable and will negatively impact the City of Spanish Fort and the surrounding community.

Spanish Fort is one of the fastest growing communities in Alabama, and as stated above, there have been repeated requests over several years to increase the services provided by the USPS in Spanish Fort. It is my understanding that Senator Richard Shelby's office and Representative Bradley Byrne's office have been involved in discussions with USPS legislative

*"A City of Spirit"*



affairs and with other representatives from the USPS to advocate for a full service post office and/or to maintain the current level of services offered in the City of Spanish Fort.

We received notice of a solicitation for bids by the USPS for a CPU in Spanish Fort bearing Solicitation No. 2D-21-A-0006. That solicitation, according to our review of the bid documents and conversations with representatives from the USPS, would actually reduce the size of the CPU and level of service provided in the City of Spanish Fort and would result in the removal of the approximately seven hundred post office boxes in the City of Spanish Fort to the City of Daphne Post Office. This is contrary to the information provided to our elected officials and is extremely disturbing. Attached is a copy of a letter I received from Representative Bradley Byrne to you dated November 14, 2020. It is clear that Representative Byrne believes he was misled in this process, and we believe that the USPS is not looking out for the best interest of the citizens of the City of Spanish Fort and the surrounding community. It is our understanding that USPS Solicitation No. 2D-21-A-0006 has been withdrawn. USPS Solicitation No. 2D-21-A-0009 has been issued as of November 19, 2020, and that solicitation also contemplates the same proposed kiosk and would result in the removal of the aforementioned post office boxes from the City of Spanish Fort.

As stated above, we believe that the demand for services in Spanish Fort and the surrounding community will continue to grow at a fast pace. I do not believe that the USPS has given appropriate consideration to the impact of the reduction of services and removal of boxes from the Spanish Fort CPU will have on the affected citizens. Individuals and businesses will have to make an approximately thirty minute round trip drive to the Daphne Post Office in order to obtain the same level of services. Due to local and interstate traffic, that trip time can increase greatly due to tourist traffic and accidents that occur on a weekly basis in the area. In addition, businesses that have maintained a Spanish Fort address, post office box and business license may now be required to maintain a post office box in the City of Daphne, which could affect their business operations and licensing. In fact, if the City of Spanish Fort elects to maintain a post office box, its mailing address would be a post office box in the City of Daphne. Furthermore, the loss of the Spanish Fort CPU and the level of services provided would create a hardship on existing businesses and may impact the recruitment and location of new businesses.

It is our understanding that the Post Office in the City of Daphne does have limited capacity for expansion, and when that post office reaches full capacity, an alternate site may be required in order to meet the needs of the community. We believe that a full service post office in the City of Spanish Fort would not only meet the needs of the citizens of the City of Spanish Fort and the surrounding community, but it would also extend the life and effective service capabilities of the Daphne Post Office. At a minimum, the USPS should maintain a full service CPU, including post office boxes, within the City of Spanish Fort. The City of Spanish Fort would like to discuss with you and/or the appropriate representatives from the USPS the possibility of the construction and/or the operation of a full service post office in Spanish Fort. The City owns some vacant property and some existing buildings which may be suitable for the operation of a post office.

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Spanish Fort and the surrounding community, I hereby request that the USPS withdraw its present solicitation for bids and revise the solicitation process to include the construction of a full service post office, or in the alternative,



the construction of a CPU which provides full service, including post office boxes, in the City of Spanish Fort.

Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael M. McMillan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

MICHAEL M. MCMILLAN  
Mayor

Enclosure

xc: The Honorable Bradley Byrne, Representative of the First District of Alabama  
The Honorable Richard Shelby, US Senator from Alabama  
The Honorable Jerry Carl  
The Honorable Tommy Tuberville  
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman, Committee on Oversight & Reform  
The Honorable James Comer, Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight & Reform  
Judy S. Mannings, Alabama Legislative Chair for the National Association of Postal Supervisors  
Sharon McIntosh, President, American Postal Workers, Local 715