UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE

June 21, 2016

John Connet
Hendersonville City Manager
145 5th Ave. East
Hendersonville, NC 28792

RE: Hendersonville, NC Main Post Office located at 427 5th Ave. West

Dear Mr. Connet,

The United States Postal Service is considering relocating the retail services currently provided at the above referenced Post Office to a smaller retail only facility in a yet to-be-determined location as close as reasonably possible to the existing location.

The Postal Service is considering relocation because the Postal Service is facing the most critical period in its history. Despite significant cost reductions, the Postal Service continues to experience a net loss as mail volume continues to decline because of increased electronic communication. As a self-supporting government establishment that receives no tax dollars for its operating expenses, the Postal Service must rely on the sale of postage, products and services to generate revenue. In the face of unsustainable deficits, the Postal Service must seek ways to cut costs, increase revenue and use its physical facilities as efficiently as possible.

The "relocation project" will consist of procuring a suitable substitute location, preparing the new location for use as a post office and then transitioning the retail services to the new location. The Postal Service would continue retail services in the current Post Office until the new post office is up and running.

In undertaking this project, the Postal Service will complete a process set out in 39 CFR 241.4 for soliciting and considering input from the community and local officials. As we are at the beginning of the process, I am offering to discuss the project with you. In our discussion, I would address the need for relocation, outline the proposal that is under consideration, explain our process for soliciting and considering input from the affected community, and ask for input from you and other local officials regarding the proposal. If you would like to discuss the project, please contact me at your convenience.

We will send an initial news release outlining the proposal to one or more news media serving the community and post a copy of the information in the public lobby of the Post Office.

The Postal Service wishes to work closely with your community and has been granted the opportunity to present the proposed project at the public City Council meeting on Thursday July 7th at 5:45 p.m. The meeting will be held at Council Chambers in City Hall located at 145 5th Ave. East, Hendersonville, NC 28792. The Postal Service will advertise the date, time, and location of the public meeting in a local news medium and post in the Post Office's public lobby a notice of the date, time, and location of the public meeting.

At the public meeting, the Postal Service will identify the need, identify the tentative decision to relocate retail services, outline the proposal to meet the need for relocation, invite questions, solicit written input on the proposal, and provide an address to which the community and local officials may send written appeals of the tentative decision and comments on the proposal for a period of 30 days following the public meeting.

Because the proposal concerns relocation, we also will: (1) discuss the reasons for relocating; (2) identify the site or area, or both, to which the Postal Service anticipates relocating the retail services; and (3) describe the anticipated size of the retail service facility for the relocated retail services, and the anticipated services to be offered at the new location.

After the 30-day comment and appeal period, the Postal Service will consider the comments and appeals received that identify reasons why the Postal Service's tentative decision and proposal is, or is not, the optimal solution for the identified need. Following that consideration, the Postal Service will make a final decision to proceed with, modify, or cancel the proposal. The Postal Service then will inform you in writing of its final decision, send a news release announcing the final decision to local news media and post a copy of the information in the public lobby of the Post Office. The Postal Service then will implement the final decision.

If the Postal Service decides to use a site or area that it did not identify at the public meeting, then the Community Relations Regulation requires the Postal Service to return to the public meeting stage of the process to make a new presentation regarding the new site or area.

We look forward to working with you and your staff as this project develops.

Sincerely,

Richard Hancock
Real Estate Specialist
United States Postal Service
PO Box 27497
Greensboro, NC 27498-1103
919-420-5284
Richard.a.hancock2@usps.gov