



City of Bloomington
Common Council

Legislative Packet

Regular Session

01 March 2006

Office of the Common Council
P.O. Box 100
401 North Morton Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47402

812.349.3409

council@bloomington.in.gov



Packet Related Material

Memo
Agenda
Calendar

Notices and Agendas:

Special Committee of the Council on the Care and Control of Feral Cats on
Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at noon in the Council Office Library

Bowl for Kids' Sake -

Legislation for Final Action:

Res 06-03 To Request that the U.S. Congress Prohibit the U.S. Postal Service
from Moving Its Facility for Processing Mail Originating in the 474 ZIP Code
Area from Bloomington, Indiana to Indianapolis, Indiana until the Effect of Such
Proposal on Costs and Delivery Standards is Fully Investigated

- Speech by Kevin McCaffery, Representative of the American Postal
Workers Union, Local 2122; Brochure

Contact: Kevin McCaffery at spokesman@bloomawu.com

Ord 06-02 To Vacate Two Public Parcels - Re: Portions of Right-of-Way
Running East /West in Front of 1010 and 1014 West Cottage Grove (Housing and
Neighborhood Development [HAND] Department, Petitioner)

(Please see the Council Legislative Packet for February 22nd for the
Legislation, Summary and Background Material.)

Contact: Lynne Friedmeyer at 349-3529 or friedmel@bloomington.in.gov

Material Regarding Ord 06-04 and Ord 06-05

(Please see the Council Legislative Packet for February 22nd for the
Legislation, Summary and Background Material.)

Ord 06-04 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 05-12 - Re: To Allow Sale of
Waterworks Bonds Through The Indiana Bond Bank

Ord 06-05 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 05-35 - Re: To Allow Sale of
Sewage Works Bonds Through The Indiana Bond Bank

Contact: Vickie Renfrow at 349-3557 or renfrowv@bloomington.in.gov

Ord 06-03 Revising Participation Fees for Certain Businesses Located Within the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone and a Tax Increment Finance Area that Receive an Enterprise Zone Investment Deduction

(Please see the Council Legislative Packet for February 22nd for the Legislation, Summary and Background Material.)

Contact: Susan Clark at 349-3416 or clarks@bloomington.in.gov
Lisa Abbott at 349-3576 or abbottl@bloomington.in.gov

Legislation and Background Material for First Reading:

None

Minutes from Regular Session:

February 22, 2006

Memo

**Special Council Committee on the Care and Control of Feral Cats – Wednesday
at Noon in the Council Library**

**Bowl for Kids' Sake Council Bowling Team – Saturday, March 4th, 12:00 p.m. –
2:00 p.m.
at Suburban Lanes**

Hank and Andy Ruff, Chris Sturbaum and Steve Volan will represent the Council at the Bowl for Kids' Sake fundraiser at Suburban Lanes on Saturday, March 4th from noon to 2:00 p.m. Councilmember Banach has given us a tremendous head start on the pledges, which can be made on a sheet in the Council Office. Please pledge and come down to cheer them on.

**One Resolution and Four Ordinances Ready for Final Action – No Ordinances
Ready for Introduction at the Regular Session on March 1, 2006**

The Common Council will meet next Wednesday for a Regular Session where five items will be ready for final action. Those items include four ordinances, which were discussed at the Committee of the Whole and can be found in the Council Legislative Packet for the February 22nd meetings, and one new item, regarding the loss of postal processing in Bloomington, which can be found summarized below and included in this packet.

Please note that although there are no items ready for first readings, there will be a resolution approving the Mayor's recommendations for the allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds ready for discussion at the Committee of the Whole on March 8th.

Res 06-03

This week the Council will consider Resolution 06-03. The Resolution requests that the U.S. Congress prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from moving its facility for processing mail originating in the 474 ZIP code area from Bloomington to Indianapolis until the effect of such proposal on costs and delivery standards is fully investigated.

Background

On December 8, 2005, the U. S. Postal Service (USPS) initiated a study to examine shifting the processing of mail from Bloomington to Indianapolis. While the stated goal of the study is to maximize efficiency, postal workers and other local lawmakers disagree with the move. Kevin McCaffery, representative of American Postal Workers Union, Bloomington, Local 2122, argues that the move will result in a delay in local mail delivery and that the move does not follow the protocol called for by the General Accounting Office (GAO). The Monroe County Council and the Monroe County Commissioners have issued proclamations stating their opposition. Mayor Kruzan's *Herald-Times* guest column calls for keeping processing local in the interest of speed and efficiency and saving the Bloomington postmark in the interest of preserving community character.

Local Implications of the Move

Currently, all mail originating in the 474 ZIP code is processed locally at the Vernal Pike processing plant. Mail is collected as far south as West Baden and French Lick, west as far as Jasonville and east as far as Nashville – in all, approximately 1500 square miles covering 49 “474” ZIP codes in six counties.

The anticipated consequences of moving processing to Indianapolis are multiple. First, the move is anticipated to significantly slow delivery time, which occurred for one year, when the USPS last moved processing from Bloomington to Indianapolis in 1991. As pointed out by McCaffery, the Bloomington processing plant outranks the Indianapolis plant by 35% in terms of processing time as measured by the “Distribution Productivity Index.” He points out that adding a 100-mile round trip to the burdens of the Indianapolis plant will certainly impair the turn-around time for a letter sent from a 474 ZIP destined for another 474 ZIP.

To illustrate this slowed delivery, Local 2122 conducted a non-scientific study. Currently, all mail collected Monday-Friday is processed locally; however, mail collected on Saturday is shipped to Indianapolis for processing with an intended return day of Monday. However, when the Union sent out mail of various sizes on a weekend from different 474 ZIP codes, some letters took six days to reach their destination. Insofar as some small rural communities within the 474 ZIP still rely on USPS mail as their primary communicative tool with the rest of the world, such slow delivery time would certainly frustrate such communication. More immediately, local residents and business rely on the timely service of the Vernal Pike processing facility (In fact, the Council Office delivers its *Legislative Packets* to the Vernal Pike facility on Fridays to ensure delivery to Council members on Saturday.)

Why Realignment?

In April 2005, the GAO issued an analysis of the USPS's strategy for realignment, *U.S. Postal Service: The Service's Strategy for Realigning Its Mail Processing Infrastructure Lacks Clarity, Criteria, and Accountability* (the *Report*), which can be found at:

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05261.pdf>

In the *Report*, the GAO points out that the reconfiguration of processing is informed by shifts in mail volume and increased competition in the marketplace. Since the USPS was reorganized in 1970, it has undergone marked changes, the effects of which include excess capacity in the mail processing and distribution infrastructure, as well as productivity differences among plants. In particular:

- Changes in the marketplace and the role of the industry have resulted in declines in mail volume (*viz.*, e-mail as a form of communication; increased competition from overnight and package services);
- The evolution of the Service's processing and distribution infrastructure, and the advent of processing automation, that has led to an infrastructure consisting of processing and distribution plants that differ markedly from one another; and
- Changes in demographics and modes of transportation have caused a tandem shift in the optimal location of the USPS's plants. For example, most plants

are located in eastern States, while population growth is most rapid in the western and Southern States. *Report, p. 24.*

GAO Critique and Recommendations

In response to these changes, the USPS articulated the goal of a more efficient and flexible infrastructure. However, as pointed out by the GAO in its assessment of USPS's plan for achieving these goals, the USPS's strategy lacks clear criteria for realignment, lacks sufficient transparency and accountability, excludes stakeholder input, and lacks performance measures. *Report, p. 24.*

Specific criticisms offered by the GAO include:

1. The USPS's strategy for realigning its mail processing and distribution infrastructure is unclear because the USPS has outlined several seemingly different strategies over the past three years. *Report, p. 53.* USPS officials have stated that no overarching strategy is planned across the entire network, instead, the USPS states that it is pursuing an "evolutionary strategy" (called the Evolutionary Development Network) and will respond to opportunities as they arise. The GAO points out that this evolutionary strategy, and attendant lack of detail, makes the USPS's overarching approach vague and hard to know. "Neither the Services' report, the strategy outlined in the meetings with the Postal Service officials, or the Postmaster General's speech sets criteria for making realignment decisions, nor do they include a process form making these decisions." *Report, p. 54.*
2. It is unclear how the USPS's strategy will result in elimination of excess capacity, because it does not include specific criteria and processes for eliminating excess capacity, including the removal of unnecessary facilities. *Report, pp. 57-58.*
3. The USPS's strategy excludes stakeholder input, is not sufficiently transparent and accountable, and lacks performance measure for results of decisions. Because decisions are not based on clear, transparent and consistently applied criteria, "it is not clear that when realignment decisions are made they are conducted as fairly, effectively, and efficiently as possible." *Report, p. 58.* The *Report* points out that the USPS's lack of stakeholder input means that the USPS loses valuable input in developing a least-cost network for the entire mailing industry. "The Service has stated that is reluctant to publicly disclose information on its realignment strategy

because it believes that it will meet with resistance from employees, communities, and government representatives if it tells them what it is planning on doing too far in advance.” *Report, p. 58.* The *Report* suggests that the USPS has various avenues of informing the public of changes while limiting USPS burdens. For example, Service could include a list of the changes that were made to the Service’s infrastructure during that year and changes that are planned for the coming year in on of its existing reports, such as the Service’s annual Comprehensive Statement.

To remedy these oversights, the GAO recommends that the USPS:

- establish a set of criteria for evaluating realignment decisions;
- develop a mechanism for informing stakeholders as decisions are made; and
- develop a process for implementing these decisions that includes evaluating and measuring the results, as well as the actual costs and savings resulting from the decisions. *Report, pp. 59-60.*

More specifically, in evaluating the USPS’s strategy, the GAO established criteria based on the USPS’s goals for realignment. The GAO suggests the following criteria:

1. Will the USPS’s strategy result in a network that is efficient and flexible, and will it lead to the elimination of excess capacity?
2. Does the USPS’s strategy include stakeholder input, and is it transparent and accountable under the following guiding principles;
 - It is based on a clear, transparent, and consistently applied process.
 - It ensures that when decisions are made they are conducted as fairly, effectively, and efficiently as possible.
 - It provides for accountability in connection with decisions. *Report, p. 56.*

As pointed out in Resolution 06-03, these GAO criteria have not been considered in studying the move from Bloomington to Indianapolis.

Invited to Address the Resolution

The packet includes a speech written by Kevin McCaffery, who will be present at Wednesday’s meeting to address the resolution, and talking points prepared by Local 2122. Chris Crabtree, Area Director for U.S. Congressman Mike Sodrel has also been invited to address the issue.

**NOTICE AND AGENDA FOR
COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SHOWERS BUILDING, 401 NORTH MORTON**

I. ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA SUMMATION

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR: Regular Session
February 22, 2006

IV. REPORTS FROM:
1. Council Members
2. The Mayor and City Offices
3. Council Committees
4. Public

V. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VI. LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

1. Resolution 06-03 To Request that the U.S. Congress Prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from Moving Its Facility for Processing Mail Originating in the 474 ZIP Code Area from Bloomington, Indiana to Indianapolis, Indiana Until the Effect of Such Proposal on Costs and Delivery Standards is Fully Investigated.

Committee Recommendation: None – Not Discussed at Committee

2. Ordinance 06-02 To Vacate Two Public Parcels – Re: Portions of Right-of-Way Running East/West in Front of 1010 and 1014 West Cottage Grove (Housing and Neighborhood Development [HAND] Department, Petitioner)

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass 8 – 0 – 1

3. Ordinance 06-04 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 05-12 – Re: To Allow Sale of Waterworks Bonds through the Indiana Bond Bank

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass 6 – 0 – 3

4. Ordinance 06-05 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 05-35 – Re: To Allow Sale of Sewage Works Bonds through the Indiana Bond Bank

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass 6 – 0 – 3

5. Ordinance 06-03 Revising Participation Fees for Certain Businesses Located Within the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone and a Tax Increment Finance Area that Receive an Enterprise Zone Investment Deduction

Committee Recommendation: Do Pass 8 – 0 – 1

VII. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

None

VIII. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (This section of the Agenda is limited to a maximum of 25 minutes. Each speaker is allotted 5 minutes.)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

City of
Bloomington
Indiana

City Hall
401 N. Morton St.
Post Office Box 100
Bloomington, Indiana 47402



Office of the Common Council
(812) 349-3409
Fax: (812) 349-3570
e-mail: council@bloomington.in.gov

To: Council Members
From: Council Office
Re: Calendar for the Week of February 27- March 3, 2006
Date: February 24, 2006

Monday, February 27, 2006

8:00 am Engineering Department Contractor Training, Council Chambers
1:00 pm Bloomington Commission on Sustainability – Indicator Focus Groups, Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave, Room 1C
2:00 pm Fire Training Facility Task Force, Hooker Room
3:30 pm Housing Trust Fund Board, McCloskey
5:30 pm Bloomington Human Rights Commission, McCloskey
6:30 pm Bloomington Commission on Sustainability – Indicator Focus Groups, Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave, Room 1C

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

4:00 pm Monroe County Solid Waste District Citizen Advisory Council, McCloskey
4:00 pm Board of Park Commissioners, Council Chambers
5:30 pm Council for Community Accessibilities – Abilities Unlimited, Dunlap

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

12:00 pm Bloomington Urban Enterprise Associations, McCloskey
12:00 pm Common Council Special Committee on the Care and Control of Feral Cats, Council Library
1:00 pm Bloomington Commission on Sustainability – Indicator Focus Groups, Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave, Room 1C
2:00 pm Hearing Officer, Kelly
6:30 pm Bloomington Commission on Sustainability – Indicator Focus Groups, Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave, Room 1C
7:30 pm Common Council Regular Session, Council Chambers

Thursday, March 2, 2006

5:00 pm Black History Month Steering Committee, Hooker Room
5:30 pm Commission on the Status of Women, McCloskey

Friday, March 3, 2006

There are no scheduled meetings for this date.



City of Bloomington
Office of the Common Council

MEETING NOTICE

Common Council Special Committee on The Care & Control of Feral Cats

As called for by Amendment 02 to Ordinance 05-33, the Common Council's Special Committee to address the care and control of feral cats will meet on Wednesday, 01 March 2006 at Noon in the Council Library, City Hall (401 N. Morton Street, Suite 110). The purpose of the meeting is to prepare for discussions with local feral cat caregivers re: alternative procedures for regulating the treatment of feral cats within corporate boundaries.

Because a quorum of the Council may be present, this meeting would also constitute a meeting of the Council as well as of this Committee under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. §5-14-1.5). Therefore, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

Posted: Friday, February 24, 2006

RESOLUTION 06-03

TO REQUEST THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS PROHIBIT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE FROM MOVING ITS FACILITY FOR PROCESSING MAIL ORIGINATING IN THE 474 ZIP CODE AREA FROM BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA TO INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA UNTIL THE EFFECT OF SUCH PROPOSAL ON COSTS AND DELIVERY STANDARDS IS FULLY INVESTIGATED

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service is considering consolidation of the originating mail for the 474 ZIP codes into the Indianapolis, Indiana Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC); and

WHEREAS, This consolidation does not serve Monroe County's best interest because of the likely degradation of service; and

WHEREAS, The economy of the local communities would be negatively impacted as a result of the possible relaxation of overnight delivery standards for those communities in the 474 ZIP code area; and

WHEREAS, The General Accounting Office (GAO), in its April 2005 report, set forth specific criteria that the Postal Service should follow when consolidating or closing facilities; and

WHEREAS, That process was not followed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

1. The Postal Service be directed by Congress to follow the recommendations set forth in the April 2005 GAO report which proposed that a set of criteria be established for evaluating decisions and keeping stakeholders informed, and that a process be developed to measure the results and the actual costs savings from those decisions.
2. The Bloomington Common Council urges that the GAO conduct a feasibility study concerning the cost of transportation and alteration of delivery standards for those communities now served by the Bloomington Indiana Processing and Distribution Center.
3. If the GAO investigation discloses increased costs in transportation and/or impaired processing and delayed delivery of originating mails or a reduction of the delivery standards for those communities now served by the Bloomington Processing and Distribution Center, then Congress shall intervene and suspend consolidation efforts for the 474 ZIP codes until such concerns are addressed and corrected.
4. The City Clerk shall distribute copies of this resolution to the Indiana Congressional delegation and the United States Postmaster General.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this ___ day of _____, 2006.

CHRIS STURBAUM, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this ___ day of _____, 2006.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor
City of Bloomington

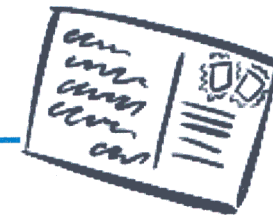
ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution calls upon the U.S. Congress to prohibit the consolidation of mail originating in the 474 ZIP code area from Bloomington, Indiana to Indianapolis, Indiana until a Government Accountability Office (GAO) investigation can be conducted. Should such study reveal increased transportation costs and/or impaired processing and delivery, the resolution calls for Congress to halt consolidation until such problems can be remedied. The resolution also directs the U.S Postal Service to follow the recommendations set forth in a 2005 GAO report calling for the establishment of concrete criteria to guide consolidation decisions, a system for keeping stakeholders informed and a system for measuring cost savings. Lastly, the resolution directs the City Clerk to distribute the resolution to the Indiana Congressional delegation and the U.S. Postmaster General.

Factors Concerning Area Mail Processing



The Area We Serve:

Currently, the Mail Processing Annex located at 4738 W Vernal Pike in Bloomington handles the processing of all mail that is collected in the 474 zip code area. This area covers approximately 1500 square miles in 6 Indiana counties, serving forty nine 474 zip codes. Towns, cities, and rural areas from Quincy to the north, French Lick to the south, Nashville to the east and Jasonville to the west are our customers.



Managements Reasons For Proposing Area Mail Processing:

- “To address the shifting mail volumes and the need to manage capacity needs while improving efficiency.”
- “The continued decline of first class mail volumes.”
- “The high cost associated with the Bio-Hazard Detection System.”

Arguments Against Area Mail Processing:

- First class mail volumes increased for 2005.
- The USPS ended 2005 with a net profit of 1.4 billion dollars and zero debt.
- The USPS admits that small plants are more productive than larger mail factories.
- Bloomington is consistently more productive than Indianapolis.
- How can moving the mail to a less productive plant be a cost saving device?
- Nearly half of the mail collected in the 474 zip code area never needs to leave the 474 area.
- All letter mail must now be processed on a canceller equipped with a Bio-Hazard Detection System (BDS).
- Bloomington’s BDS would be re-deployed resulting in zero savings.
- The aspect of processing the mail in one central location could lead to a complete shutdown of mail service for the state in the event of a Bio-Hazard alarm.
- The unnecessary 100 mile round trip to Indianapolis will likely result in earlier collection times for outlying towns and cities in the 474 area.
- If AMP is enacted, management will likely publicize an “upgrade” in service with the availability of next day service to Muncie, Ft Wayne, Kokomo and Lafayette. The odds are an erosion of local service will likely be felt. Earlier collection times and the loss of next day service for mailings such as French Lick to West Baden are a possibility.
- Rural lifestyles rely heavily on the mail. We embrace the fact that many of our customers truly rely on the mail to be their main connection to the rest of the world, be it another town, another state or another country.

***DON'T LET THE USPS
CANCEL OUR POSTMARK!***

Please visit our website at: www.bloomapwu.com

**We The Members Of APWU
Local 2122 Need Your Help.**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

*We are asking all of our customers in the
474 zip code area to become involved to
help stop the implementation of
Area Mail Processing.*

*Please consider contacting your local,
state and federal elected officials
concerning this matter.*

Please visit our website at:

www.bloomapwu.com

*There you will find names and addresses
to aid in contacting your representatives.*

*Please don't hesitate to contact us
if you need any additional help
in locating these officials.*

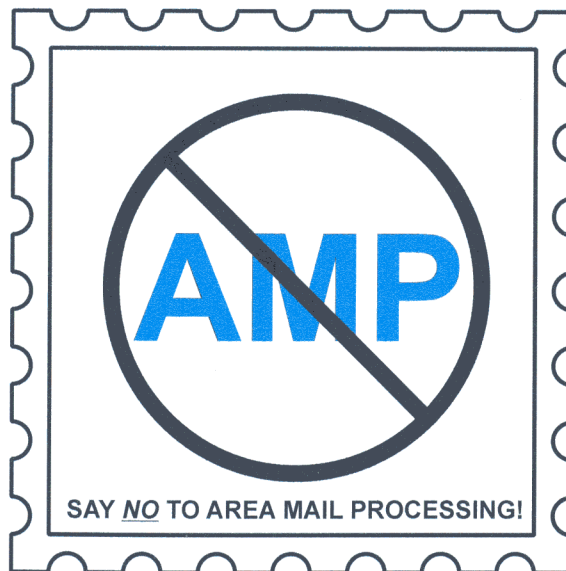
*Remember, Area Mail Processing
Is being proposed for
THE ENTIRE 474 ZIP CODE AREA.*

*Let your voices be heard ... Tell them...
**KEEP THE SERVICE IN MY
POSTAL SERVICE!***

Information Provided By The
**American Postal Workers Union
Local 2122, AFL-CIO**

For More Information Please Contact

**APWU LOCAL 2122
PO Box 864
Bloomington IN 47402-0864
email:
spokesman@bloomapwu.com
webmaster@bloomapwu.com**



www.bloomapwu.com

***THE USPS WANTS TO
PROCESS YOUR MAIL
IN INDIANAPOLIS!***

On December 8th, 2005 managers of the United States Postal Service announced their intention to conduct an "Area Mail Processing Feasibility Study"

(AMP) in the 474 zip code area. Essentially the Postal Service is studying whether or not to move the canceling and sorting of collection mail out of

Bloomington and into the less productive Indianapolis plant. This will entail trucking the mail from every city and town in the 474 area - first to Bloomington, then to Indianapolis and then to return the local (474 zip coded) mail, back to Bloomington

for further processing and then delivery. This plan will eliminate the Bloomington postmark and add an unnecessary 100 mile round trip to your mail. As

many of you may remember this idea is nothing new and in fact has been tried before in the 474 area during the early 1990's with disastrous results. Customer service suffered drastically then and we predict

it will again. Please take time to investigate the changes being proposed to YOUR mail service.

APWU
American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
Bloomington Indiana Local 2122

www.bloomapwu.com

American Postal Workers Union
Bloomington, Indiana
Local 2122
PO Box 864
Bloomington, IN 47402

Why the Union Opposes the Area Mail Processing Feasibility Study for Bloomington, Indiana

Introduction

About the Writer

Union's Involvement and Non-Members

Brief Summary of Current and Proposed Scenarios

Contentions of the Union

- Bloomington Plant More Efficient Than Indianapolis Plant
- Smaller Plants are More Productive Than Larger Plants
- Study Is Flawed From the Start
- USPS "Canned" Statement, Financial Facts

The Mail Itself

- How The Mail is Separated at the Cancellor
- Amount of Mail That Stays in Bloomington
- Safety of the Mail
- "What If" Scenario
- Fewer Processing Centers Make the Mailing Network Vulnerable to Disruption

Service Issues and Situations

- Possible Service Issues if Consolidation is Implemented
- Loss of Jobs

The GAO Has Previously Criticized the Postal Service for Lack of Clarity, Criteria and Accountability and Postal Service Has Not Improved

- Excerpts and USPS Response

USPS Consolidation Plans Are Not in the Best Interests of the Country

- Rural Lifestyle and Impact of Mail on Our Local Customers

Impromptu History of the Post Office

Final Words

- The Unions Position, and What the USPS Needs to Do
- How You Can Help

**Text of Speech prepared Kevin McCaffrey,
Spokesman for American Postal Workers Union
Local 2122**

Hello and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you. My name is Kevin McCaffery. I work for the U.S. Postal service. The Postal Service announced on December 8th that they were conducting a feasibility study that impacts all of us. The Postal Service is studying whether or not to move the canceling and sorting of collection mail out of Bloomington and process the mail in Indianapolis, effectively eliminating the Bloomington postmark. This idea is nothing new, and in fact has been tried before in Bloomington with disastrous results. I and others I speak for feel strongly that the proposal is unnecessary and unwarranted, and will likely have a negative impact on mail service in the 474 zip code area.

I would first like to tell you a little about myself. I have worked for the Postal Service for 23 1/2 years. I started in California as a clerk in 1982, transferred into maintenance in 1992, then moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming in 1993. My family moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 2000 and I again transferred to Bloomington in June of 2001. I work on the machines that postmark and sort the mail for delivery by your carrier. I have worked in small plants like Bloomington and Cheyenne, medium sized plants in California, and huge “mail factories” in Phoenix, which mass thousands of employees together. I have been a part time manager as both a clerk and maintenance employee,

and have also been actively involved in the union as a clerk and maintenance employee. I tell you this because I feel with my broad experience in the Postal Service I offer a good perspective on many aspects of the Postal Services plans to move your mail to Indianapolis. I feel it is not right.

I currently am an officer in the American Postal Workers Union, Local 2122. I come before you as a representative of union members, but postal workers have kind of a unique set up. Briefly, all career postal craft employees are paid a union negotiated wage and benefits package, from a few different unions. We however are NOT a closed shop, and union participation is voluntary, nobody is forced to join. The union is mandated congressionally to represent ALL members whether they pay dues or not. We are not allowed to strike. I tell you this because whatever your opinion of unions may be, our local feels this latest USPS proposal crosses all lines of member/nonmember affiliation. When the local union heard of USPS' plans, we called a "come one come all" meeting. Members and nonmembers stood side by side. Other union's members showed up as well.

Currently, mail is collected from all offices in the 474 zip code area. We collect mail from as far south as West Baden and French Lick, as far

west as Jasonville, North to Quincy, and east to Nashville. This area covers roughly 1500 square miles. The mail collected is transported to Bloomington where it is cancelled, sorted, and returned to all 474 offices for delivery. The Postal Service plans to transport the collected mail to Indianapolis for canceling and processing. When Indianapolis finishes processing the mail it will be returned to Bloomington for reprocessing and then sent to the 474 offices for delivery.

When it comes to efficiency and productivity, the Bloomington plant does very well. I am going to throw out some numbers and acronyms here, so bear with me. OEE is “Operational Equipment Efficiency”. It is a formula that basically covers how well a machine performs when mail is going through it. As far as the canceling machines are concerned, out of 274 plants, Bloomington placed 117th in October. That puts us in the upper half of the plants. Indianapolis was 213th, far below even the middle of the pack. Head to head between Indianapolis and Bloomington, our OEE was better 6 of 8 months for the canceling machines, and better every month as far as the sorting machines are concerned. Our sorting machines, known as DBCS machines (delivery bar code sorter) in Bloomington are consistently in the top ten percent in the country. With numbers like this the workers wonder

why management would even consider eliminating the operations. I know of no private company who could justify to their stockholders the idea of moving operations to a less productive plant. Again, the union contends the Postal Service has no accountability when it comes to decisions involving your mail service, and the union feels action needs to be taken to hold the Postal Service accountable to you, the stakeholder.

When it comes to raw productivity, the Postal Service readily admits that the smaller plants produce better than the larger “mail factories”. According to GAO report GAO-05-261 issued in April 2005 (page 29), postal management admits the small plants are more efficient than larger plants because operations at small plants are not as complex as those in the larger plants. Logically, bigger is not always better. One of the productivity figures that postal management uses is “DPI”. DPI stands for “Distribution Productivity Index” and is also a formula. The way I understand it is raw volume divided by raw work hours. Indianapolis DPI as of November 4 was 750 pieces per hour. Bloomington Plant was 1,077 pieces per hour, over 40 percent BETTER than our counterparts. Current year to date shows Bloomington at a 35% higher productivity index than Indianapolis. The Bloomington plant has faced severe staffing cuts in the last three years. We

are using 7 percent less total hours than last year, yet continue to produce great service.

In the December 8th announcement the Postal Service stated they were doing “A study.” In reality they were studying HOW it would be done, not IF it would be done. The union contends the Postal Service misleads the public and misleads the workers. One district manager stated Bloomington was “the obvious choice”. He also stated that it “probably would happen”. In mid-December management sent a person down to Bloomington to conduct the “study”. That person reportedly said that she “did not know why she was here” and that the move “was a done deal”. She stated that “Indianapolis plant had problems of their own they needed to work out.” The Postal Service is aggressively pursuing consolidating operations all over the country. The union feels that Postal management is making decisions before facts are collected, and are not being held accountable for their integrity of the study. We perceive this as a major flaw in the study procedure and needs to be addressed on a national level.

The Postal Service stated in the December 8th letter that the reason for the study was “to address the shifting mail volume and the need to manage

capacity needs while improving efficiency”. This statement is a “canned” response given to nearly all of the plants targeted for consolidation. In the December 8th meeting with the union they stated one of the reasons for the study was the decline of first class mail volume in the past few years. That statement was not true. The truth is first class mail volume actually increased this year, after three years of decline. The Postal Workers union has been saying all along the decline was caused by a combination of an economic slump, 9-11 and the anthrax attacks. We have record volumes of mail today, increases in packages and bulk mail volumes are substantial. Federal Times reports that the USPS is in the best financial position since the 1970’s with a net income of 1.4 billion on revenues of 70 billion. The Postal service has also reduced its 11 billion dollar deficit to ZERO. The Postal Service is federally mandated to break even over time. We are NOT supported by tax dollars; all of our revenue is derived from product sales and services.

Postmaster General Potter told the USPS Governors, “We kept our focus on the customer the past four years, and it has paid off in record revenues, record volumes and positive customer satisfaction”. Direct Magazine reports that 2007 is expected to be a banner year for the direct mail marketers, pegging their growth at 6 percent a year from 2005 to 2009. In the just released 2005 annual report, the U.S. Postal Service ended fiscal 2005 with a

record sixth consecutive year of growth in productivity, and delivered fifty percent more mail to 32 million more homes and businesses than it did twenty years ago. Amazingly, this feat was accomplished at 1985 staffing levels! We feel this is hardly a good time to consolidate, which is another word for eliminate. The union contends that the changes proposed here and in other areas is merely “Change for the sake of change”.

I would like to talk about the mail itself. Our canceling machine separates the mail three ways: pre-bar coded mail, local or “474” mail and outgoing mail. Pre-bar coded mail goes directly to a DBCS machine for sorting. The other mail goes a different route to get a bar code sprayed on it. When I looked at seven days in November, on the average 41.7 percent of the non-bar coded mail had a 474 zip code and never left Bloomington. The number varied from between 37 and 45 percent. Again, the union feels it makes absolutely no sense to pack that mail up and send it on a 100 mile round trip, when we can process it here more efficiently, and return it to our customers quickly. The union contends the personal service you currently receive in Bloomington will be lost in Indianapolis. Currently the mail collected on Saturday is shipped to Indianapolis and gets cancelled, sorted and returned supposedly by Monday. We suggest that our customers try

mailing something on a Saturday and see for themselves. The union conducted a non-scientific study on December 18, having postal workers mail various sizes of letters from different areas in our 474 area. Some of the test mail took six days to arrive!!

I would like to talk about the safety of the mail. After 9-11 came the anthrax attacks and mail volume suffered. The Postal service has now installed equipment that can detect anthrax spores in the collected mail. The mail is screened for anthrax, and should Anthrax be detected a warning will sound. In the December 8th meeting the cost of the biohazard detection cartridges was stated as another factor in management's decision to do the study. They also stated that if the decision is made to consolidate, our canceling and anthrax detection machines would go "somewhere else". If that's the case, there is no money saved, but rather shifted. It's like taking money out of your left pocket, putting it in your back pocket, and calling it a savings!! You still have the same amount, don't you? Also relocating machines would cost money instead of saving money.

Another factor regarding mail safety is a "What If". If management has their way, we feel they will also take mail from Muncie, Kokomo, Terre Haute, and other small but more productive plants and mass all the mail in

Indianapolis. That is part of the plan, we think. What if the biohazard equipment detects Anthrax in the mail? That would effectively shut down mail delivery to most of the state of Indiana. We feel it prudent to keep your smaller plants intact if you already have the equipment in place and are moving the mail more efficiently. That makes more sense to us.

When it comes to service, the union contends management is planning on best case scenarios for mail service. They do not make contingent plans for inclement weather and traffic. In the December 8th meeting they cited “good roads” as a factor in initiating the study. Have they not traveled highway 37 in the afternoon? What about all the smaller roads that lead to the Bloomington plant? Dispatch times for the trucks will likely be adjusted, and one way your service may suffer is if the truck to Indianapolis leaves before all the mail from outlying offices gets to the Bloomington plant. That mail will be delayed until the next day. With all the rural two lane highways in the area, that scenario is a distinct possibility. You as customers can also expect to see drop off times change in smaller post offices. It may not happen right away. In California we consolidated two plants into one big mail factory, and when the delivery commitments could not be made management changed the delivery standards. It has happened in the past. As

a matter of fact, the union contends management may tell you the results of the consolidation will be an upgrade in mail service. They may tell you that what now takes 2 days to get to Lafayette or Muncie may get there overnight, that is how management may justify their study. The truth is we feel the erosion of local service will be felt immediately and in the future as well if management cannot make the service commitment to outlying offices.

Consolidation will result in the loss of local jobs. The number of lost positions thrown about by management is a dozen or so. These are good paying jobs that will be taken elsewhere. Management will consider that a savings. Realistically, the affected workers will most likely not lose their jobs, but be reassigned to another plant instead. There is no savings to the Postal Service in this case. Some workers may see their hours reduced to justify the loss of full time jobs. These “Part Time Flexible” employees have been working full at near full time levels for quite awhile but have no set schedule like the full time “Regular” employees. The union contends local service will suffer as Postal Management cuts these employees’ hours solely to justify the consolidation. While the loss of jobs will affect the local economy, this is yet another example of the Postal Service moving money

from their left pocket into their back pocket and calling it a savings. Expect this kind of deception from postal management should you want to find out the facts behind the elimination of the Bloomington postmark. The union encourages the public to find out more!

The examples I have cited are some of what we contend is many reasons to not eliminate the canceling operations in the Bloomington plant. The workers often wonder that with such good productivity why doesn't management send us more mail to work. The workers in Bloomington are up to the task. That would make sense, though...

As for accountability, the General Accounting Office did a study, completed in April 2005. In that study, GAO-05-261, the GAO criticized the Postal Service for its lack of clarity, criteria and accountability in handling consolidations. The study stated, "The Services strategy is not sufficiently transparent and accountable, excludes stakeholder input (that's you, the customer), and lacks performance measures for results of decisions". The study also stated in part, "The Services limited communication makes it difficult for customers to work with the service...for employees to understand how they will be affected...and for congress to explain to its constituents what the service is planning to do". Postal Service Chief

Operating Officer Pat Donahue responded to the GAO study, and stated his promise of local initiation and accountability, and of local input. These promises have gone largely ignored. Has anyone asked you, the stakeholder about moving the canceling of collection mail to Indianapolis? We feel the Postal Service should be required to cease all consolidations until such time that transparency and fairness can be insured. We feel the Postal Service should account for their decisions as the GAO study recommended they do. Currently we know of only one study that did NOT result in a consolidation, as of January 9, 2006 there are nearly 50 proposals in the works by USPS management.

Given the rural lifestyle of the 1500 square mile area that the Bloomington plant serves, we feel the mail service is still a very important part of our customers' lives. We cannot assume everyone in our area has a computer, or even internet access. We embrace the fact that a lot of our customers truly rely on the mail to be their main connection to the rest of the world, be it another town another state or another country.

A brief history of the Postal Service may go something like this: First, there was the pony express. With the invention of the telegraph, folks back

then said that was the end of the pony express. It survived, and grew. Then came the railroad, and that should be the end of mail service. Ok, now we have the telephone, and that spelled doom for the post office...finally, the internet. That, for sure, would spell the end of the post office. Well, once again the postal service has survived and thrived in spite of all the doom and gloom stories that have cropped up through history. The truth is, the postal service ended 2005 with a record sixth year of growth in productivity. We now deliver to 142 million homes and businesses six days a week. We are the ONLY service provider delivering to every address in the nation. Again, we are NOT supported by tax dollars; all of our income is from sales of products. We are a 70 Billion dollar a year industry. We deliver 46 percent of the world's mail. We now deliver fifty percent more mail to 32 million MORE customers than we did 20 years ago. We are doing that with the same staffing we had 20 years ago. Not too bad...

In closing, as postal workers we are uniquely situated to see and communicate an inside picture of the Postal Service. It is our strong opinion that any plan to transfer mail operations from Bloomington to Indianapolis will cost the Postal Service more money and will reduce service to the local communities, as well as the state. We also contend the Postal Service has

and will continue to mislead and deceive the public on this important issue. The union contends the Postal Service also needs to clearly communicate their intentions to the public, and account for their decisions with fairness. The members of the American Postal Workers Union want to inform the community that their plans to eliminate the Bloomington postmark is not in the best interests of the local community, the state, or the Postal Service. We hope that you will do your part in defending your interests, and your community's interests of this important service issue. We urge all of our customers to contact your Postmaster, Council Members and elected state officials, and demand that the Postal Service be clear, accountable, and keep the "Service" in Postal Service. We can pass resolutions to hold the Postal Service Accountable. We need to be vocal in our outcry. "DON'T LET THEM CANCEL OUR POSTMARK!!" Thank you for your time, and I will be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at 7:30 pm with Council President Andy Ruff presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
February 22, 2006

Roll Call: Banach, Diekhoff, Ruff, Gaal, Rollo, Sturbaum, Volan, Sabbagh, Mayer

ROLL CALL

Council President Sturbaum gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of May 4, 2005 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Andy Ruff read Resolution 03-04 opposing the War in Iraq that was passed by the council on February 5, 2003. Ruff said he would like to have something positive to report about the situation in Iraq but described it as one of the worst foreign policy decisions in the history of our country.

REPORTS:

- COUNCILMEMBERS

Tim Mayer welcomed about 40 Indiana University students who were in the audience and explained the rules and procedures of conducting business at the meeting and Committee of the Whole meeting which would follow the regular session.

Chris Sturbaum reported that the council has received input in support of amending the human rights ordinance to address gender identity. He said the council is working on the issue and looks forward to hearing public input during the comment period.

Sturbaum reported that the city has received comments from business owners near the city garage at 7th and Walnut. He said they are concerned about how evening parking affects their business.

Sturbaum also reported that he attended a downtown development workshop by the downtown commission and the Housing and Neighborhood Department where developers discussed the preservation and rehabilitation of older buildings downtown.

Sturbaum noted that the Historic Preservation Commission will meet March 9th to discuss the Kappa Sigma house on East 3rd Street.

Lastly, Sturbaum announced that the city council has a bowling team to raise money for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Monroe County on March 4th. He encouraged citizens to contact the council office make a pledge.

The council wished Council member David Sabbagh a Happy Birthday.

There were no reports from the Mayor's Office.

- MAYOR and CITY OFFICES
- COUNCIL COMMITTEES
- PUBLIC INPUT

There were no council committee reports.

Joelene Bergonzi introduced her class called "Beyond The Sample Gates" from the Department of Leadership, Ethics and Social Action in Political Science. She said her class practices civil engagement and that she would practice by speaking to the council. Bergonzi noted that the legislature is attempting to modify the definition of marriage and suggested that a public dialogue is needed. She said that many viewpoints on marriage need to be heard in order to positively affect change. She asked that the city help develop an opportunity for this dialogue.

Gabe Rivera spoke about conflict resolution and restorative therapeutic justice. He suggested that measures be taken to make the justice system more reformative than punitive.

Caleb Colvard, stated support for gender identity for equal protection under the law and noted studies that said it does not weaken the law but strengthens it. Colvard also said the Bloomington Human Rights ordinance needs to be clear on this issue.

Bree Hartlage, a member of the transgendered community, spoke of the inclusion of gender identity to the Human Rights amendment. She said she wanted to make sure that she was not the only voice on this issue and had asked others to speak.

Steve Kelly, local citizen and salesman for EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems) brought each council member color pictures of the product that had been used on the exterior of downtown buildings. He said he had watched the recent meeting at which the CVS building was granted a right of way and said that he was not pleased with the way some council members portrayed this product as unreliable and inferior. Kelly, a master plasterer, said he wanted to show the good installations of EIFS, that the product was versatile and long lasting if it were installed correctly. Kelly said he was embarrassed at the way that the council treated the CVS folks.

There were not board or commission appointments at this meeting.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

There was no legislation for final action at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

It was moved and seconded that the following legislation be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. Clerk Moore read the legislation by title and synopsis.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 06-02 To Vacate Two Public Parcels – Re: Portions of Right-of-Way Running East/West in Front of 1010 and 1014 West Cottage Grove (Housing and Neighborhood Development [HAND] Department, Petitioner)

Ordinance 06-02

Ordinance 06-03 Revising Participation Fees for Certain Businesses Located Within the Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone and a Tax Increment Finance Area that Receive an Enterprise Zone Investment Deduction

Ordinance 06-03

Ordinance 06-04 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 05-12 – Re: To Allow Sale of Waterworks Bonds Through The Indiana Bond Bank

Ordinance 06-04

Ordinance 06-05 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 05-35 – Re: To Allow Sale of Sewage Works Bonds Through The Indiana Bond Bank

Ordinance 06-05

There was no public comment at the end of this meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Chris Sturbaum, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington