



City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2024

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager **Approved Electronically**

FROM: Nic Ciccone, Government Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: USPS Announces Reno Mail Processing Operations Moving to Sacramento

The United State Postal Service (USPS) announced on Tuesday that it will be moving mail processing outgoing operations from the Reno Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) to the Sacramento P&DC. The move will convert the Reno facility to a Local Processing Center (LPC). The conversion will also include technology upgrades.

Staff attended a meeting in February where the USPS sought public comment from residents of the area. There were around 100 participants. None of the participants were in favor of the move. Some expressed support for the technology upgrades. The governor, secretary of state, and the federal delegation have been unified in their opposition to the relocation and have indicated as such in multiple letters to Postmaster General DeJoy as well as a congressional hearing last week.

Additionally, the City Manager's Office has been monitoring the situation and working with our Policy and Strategy team to ensure we are sharing our concerns with the Postmaster General as well as our federal delegation. Manager Thornley also drafted and sent a letter (attached) to the Postmaster General on March 11, 2024, outlining our concerns and requesting an update be provided to City Council. A follow-up was sent on March 26, 2024.

Senators Rosen and Cortez Masto have both released statements condemning the decision to relocate the processing facility. In their statements, Senator Rosen declared that the "fight is not over yet," and Senator Cortez Masto committed to "keep doing everything [she] can to protect Nevada jobs and ensure that Nevadans can get their mail on time." Governor Lombardo also released a statement following the announcement committing to continue the fight.

According to the USPS, the move will not occur until 2025. We will continue to monitor any changes to the proposal.

Attachment A: City Manager Letter to PM General DeJoy – 3.26.24

Attachment B: City Manager Letter to PM General DeJoy – 3.11.24

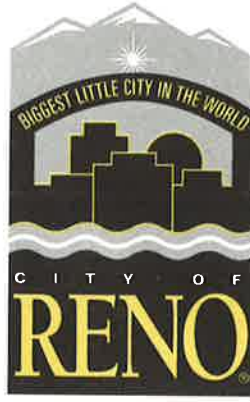
Attachment C: Governor Lombardo Letter to PM General DeJoy – 3.7.24

Attachment D: Rep. Amodei Letter to PM General DeJoy – 2.29.24

Attachment E: Federal Delegation Letter to PM General DeJoy – 2.28.24

Doug Thornley
City Manager

(775) 334-2401
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www.reno.gov



*"Creating a community that people
are proud to call home."*

March 26, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

Thank you for your attention to our letter dated March 11, 2024, requesting a presentation to our City Council regarding the Reno Processing and Distribution Center. I would like to confirm your receipt of the letter and ask when you may have an opportunity to attend a City Council meeting to discuss this important topic.

Specifically, we are concerned with plans to move the processing facility and its impact to our community. This includes delays in service, impacts on local business, and the degradation of services to our area.

Please kindly respond with your, or your designee's, availability to present your plans to our City Council.

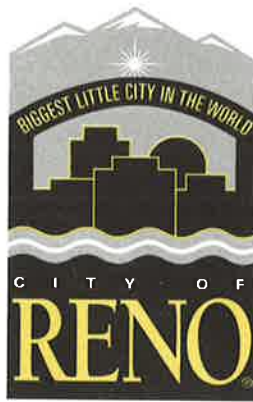
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Thornley".

Doug Thornley
City Manager

Doug Thornley
City Manager

(775) 334-2401
thornleyd@reno.gov
www.reno.gov



*"Creating a community that people
are proud to call home."*

March 11, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Re: Reno Processing and Distribution Center

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I'm sure you're aware of the acute interest taken by the citizens of Western Nevada in the changes proposed by the United States Postal Service for the Reno Processing and Distribution Center. To best serve our constituents, the Reno City Council works diligently to keep up with as many issues in our community as possible – the city of Reno is honored to invite you to discuss the proposal at a meeting of the city council. I understand you are impossibly busy, but the value of your attention to this matter for our city cannot be overstated. Please let me know your availability at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Doug Thornley", written over a blue circular stamp or mark.

Doug Thornley
City Manager

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Office of the Governor

March 7, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I am writing to you regarding the United States Postal Service's (USPS) proposed changes to the Reno Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) in Northern Nevada and request that you take seriously the concerns being expressed by my constituents, local governments, and Nevada state agencies.

A month ago, the USPS released a proposal suggesting that the Reno P&DC may be downsized to a Local Processing Center (LPC). This action would require that mail be sent to Sacramento, CA for processing, instead of remaining locally for processing and distribution. Recent snowstorms are a fierce reminder of the interruptions seasonal weather events can have on local commerce due to stalled transportation, deliveries, and shipping as a result of poor road conditions and road closures. Forcing what the USPS considers to be a good business decision on Northern Nevadans while risking reliable and timely mail service for our hard-working families, seniors, veterans, and small businesses is not acceptable. The State of Nevada also has serious concerns about the proposed relocation compromising the votes of Nevadans using mail in ballots to vote in elections. I request that you give full consideration to the comments submitted to the USPS by impacted Nevada stakeholders, local governments, State of Nevada entities, including the Nevada Departments of Health and Human Services and Motor Vehicles.

Among our State agencies, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) regularly contact constituents across the state via the Postal Service. DHHS programs serve some of Nevada's most vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, people with physical disabilities, and individuals with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities. Timely and reliable mail operations are a matter of administrative necessity for DHHS and are critical to effectively serving these vulnerable populations. Downsizing and relocating the Reno P&DC could contribute to significant setbacks to Northern Nevadans receiving DHHS administered benefits and the processing of applications. For example, delays receiving and processing applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Medicaid could result in families going without food or necessary medical care.

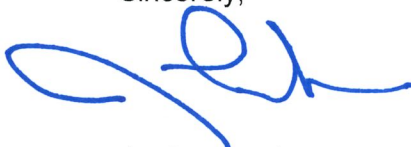
Additionally, the DHHS Division of Child and Family Services administers the Confidential Address Program. This program heavily relies on the Postal Service and serves as a key piece of safety plans for survivors of abuse. Through the program, participants are able to reroute mail in order to keep their location safe and hidden. The program already encounters lengthy mail processing due to the system set in place to protect the program participants' locations. Processing mail through Sacramento could add several days to their mail processing times by requiring the participant's mail go through the Sacramento location twice before finally reaching the participant. Inclement weather could further compromise this essential mail delivery, and the added time could deter participation in the critical program.



The Nevada DMV headquarters also stands to be directly impacted by USPS's proposal, as its main mailroom operations for the entire state are included in the area affected by the proposed changes. The DMV relies on the USPS for timely delivery as it strives to meet the needs of Nevadans while also adhering to timelines often dictated by Nevada statute. An increased risk of unreliable mail operations because of downsizing and relocating the Reno P&DC would have a domino effect on Nevadans awaiting timely service from the DMV. For instance, extended wait times could increase employment and medical service interruptions as individuals await DMV-issued identification; restricted, revoked, or suspended license drivers could remain on the road longer due to delays in receiving court documents; and Commercial drivers could be unable to operate if their required documentation is delayed. Additionally, should the DMV be required to compensate for anticipated mail delivery delays, it could also see increases in costs associated with mail processing to ensure timely delivery.

I respectfully urge USPS to take into consideration the State of Nevada's serious concerns regarding the Reno P&DC proposal, and I thank you for your attention to this issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and my team should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Lombardo', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Joe Lombardo
Governor

MARK E. AMODEI
2ND DISTRICT, NEVADA

HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH,
CHAIRMAN
FINANCIAL SERVICES AND
GENERAL GOVERNMENT
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES

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February 29, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Subject: Reno Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC)

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I find it necessary to correspond with you for the second day in a row regarding serious concerns about the United States Postal Service's (USPS) proposed changes to Nevada's Reno Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) on Vassar Street. First, it is clear that the USPS must host another public meeting in Washoe County to allow for more comments and concerns to be heard on the proposed changes to Reno's P&DC. Just as important, your commitment to making no changes to operations at the Reno P&DC until calendar year 2025 is specifically requested hereby.

As you know, there is widespread interest in Western Nevada regarding changes to aspects of mail processing at the Reno P&DC, so much so that another public meeting is needed, given the hurried original comment deadline. Now that state and federal officials in Washoe County are fully aware, another public meeting is necessary. It is apparent the Postal Service has a robust appetite for changes. What is also clear is that the Postal Service has very little appetite for fully understanding local impacts regarding the impacts they have on private commerce, elections, and the outlook of future operations.

Accordingly, I request the USPS schedule a public input meeting in Reno no later than April 30th of this year. Of course, an April meeting must be preceded by full disclosure of the USPS's facts, theories, and rationale to support changes to the Reno P&DC. So far, that information has been mysterious to everyone outside of USPS.

I have been told this proposal was generated by you personally. You need to know that over the course of the week I have tried to gather information supporting your reasoning for the proposed changes; your team has been incredibly difficult to work with. Astonishingly, someone on your staff told me I can't schedule a walk through or a briefing until we meet with Senators Jacky Rosen and Catherine Cortez Masto at the same time, because apparently fact finding is political. Wow, never heard that one before. In all seriousness, Mr. Postmaster General, whoever on your staff is the political advisor that attributed fact finding to be exclusively an adventure for political advantage is a genius or way off base.

Kindly respond to the above by close of business on **March 1st, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact me personally. I left my personal cell number through your Congressional relations office. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work with you on this matter.

Cordially,



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 28, 2024

Mr. Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

We write to express our serious concern about the United States Postal Service's (USPS) proposed changes to Nevada's Reno Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) on Vassar Street, and to request information about the potential impact of such changes to mail service reliability, the local economy, and jobs in the community.

On February 06, 2024, USPS released its Initial Finding of its Mail Processing Facility Review for the Reno P&DC, in which USPS determined it will likely downsize the Reno P&DC to a Local Processing Center (LPC) and that "the business case supports transferring mail processing outgoing operations" from Reno, Nevada, to Sacramento, California. In its review, USPS does not provide information about the study on which it relied to reach this determination, nor does it provide any analysis on local impacts of moving mail processing completely outside of the State of Nevada. With this in mind, we are concerned about the plan to downsize the Reno P&DC and move its operations to California, and frustrated by the lack of transparency from USPS about the process for making this significant determination.

The proposed downsizing could severely impede on-time mail service in Northern Nevada, which is essential for those who rely on the Postal Service to receive their medication, Social Security checks, notes from loved ones, and much more. USPS is also how many Nevadans conduct commerce, pay their bills, vote in federal and state elections, and respond to time-sensitive matters. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs alone fills about 80 percent of veterans' prescriptions by mail. The veterans receiving these medications – among the 220,000 veterans in Nevada – rely on the Postal Service for timely delivery of their often life-saving prescriptions. Delays for these men and women who have served our country is not an option. Likewise, for many families in rural Nevada, the Postal Service is the only way that they can receive critical deliveries and participate in e-commerce. Diverting their mail outside of the state and back again raises serious concerns. In this same vein, sending over one hundred thousand mail-in-ballots from Nevada to California before they are sent back to Northern Nevada is extremely concerning to election officials in the state.

The USPS standard for local Reno mail received and delivered is two days, a standard which USPS has already struggled to meet. Sending Nevadans' mail to California does not seem like a promising way of improving this deficiency. The snowy mountains and often difficult road conditions between Reno and Sacramento pose a major challenge to on-time mail delivery, furthering concerns about service delays if mail is being shipped out of state only to later be sent back to Nevada.

Moreover, USPS provides good, reliable jobs for the Reno community that this “modernization” could put at risk. While USPS states that “there will be no career employee layoffs,” it neither provides data on how it reached this conclusion, nor does it make any mention of prospective job losses for pre-career employees, who are those who have worked for USPS for under two years. Moreover, USPS also states that there might be a “net decrease of 11 craft and 1 management position” once the downsizing of the facility to a Local Processing Center is complete. It is hard to imagine how a facility downsizing would not result in community job loss or employee relocations outside of the state to Sacramento. Furthermore, we are concerned that a reduction in services and thus employment opportunities at Reno P&DC will negatively impact the USPS employment pipeline for new, future hires in the community. With this in mind, we respectfully request that USPS provide the following by March 15, 2024:

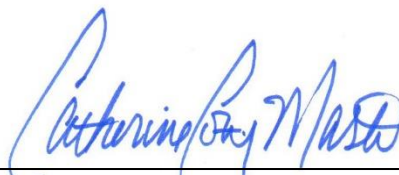
1. A detailed explanation of how USPS assessed the projected service and job impacts that would result from downsizing the Reno P&DC to an LPC;
2. Data from the Mail Processing Facility Review of the Reno P&DC used to determine the impact to jobs in the region, including the current employment numbers for career and pre-career employees at Reno P&DC;
3. Any assessment USPS conducted on the impact on downsizing the Reno P&DC on mail service in Reno, the rest of Washoe County, and Northern Nevada as a whole, in addition to the specific impacts on veterans, seniors, and rural communities;
4. Any assessment USPS conducted on impacts to mail-in ballots sent from Nevada that would be diverted to the mail processing facility in Sacramento before being sent back to Nevada;
5. A detailed explanation of USPS’s assessment of weather and geographic conditions between Reno and Sacramento, and the resulting impacts to service; and
6. A briefing for Senator Rosen, Senator Cortez Masto, and Representative Amodei on the proposed changes.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions or updates, please contact Olga Zoraqi from my staff at Olga_Zoraqi@rosen.senate.gov.

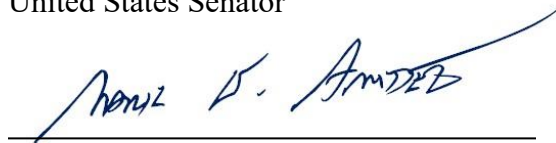
Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Mark Amodei
Member of Congress