



Randall A. Jackvony
Chairperson

Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections

Gary J. Vierra
Member

Quilcia I. Moronta
Member

*Cranston Board of Canvassers
City Hall
869 Park Ave., Room 100
Cranston, RI 02910-2786*

Aug. 11, 2022

Jeanne M. Jackson
Postmaster – Providence, RI
VIA EMAIL

RE: Establishment of Normal Mail Delivery for Fiskeville, RI Non-Delivery Area

Dear Postmaster Jackson,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Cranston Canvassing Authority to formally request that the United States Postal Service **establish normal mail delivery** to the area known as “Fiskeville” in the City of Cranston and the Town of Scituate, Rhode Island.

For the last six years, I have had numerous in-depth conversations with USPS representatives ranging from carriers, to local office postmasters in Hope, Fiskeville, and Cranston, to customer service in Providence, to regional customer relations offices in Boston, to AMS and others. Despite repeated requests, and more inquiries than I care to count, no one has been able to provide us a clear, convincing answer as to why the residents in the Fiskeville area of our two communities do not receive normal mail delivery from USPS, and must instead use a PO Box at the Fiskeville Post Office. No one – from carriers, right on up to the management level – seems to be aware of the original rationale for this, or whether that rationale still persists and remains valid today.

I actually live close to this area myself – my house is just over the line in Coventry (I receive normal mail delivery) – and I drive down Main Street often, wondering why this identical, suburban, and developed area, out of the whole of the larger area, does not receive mail service, all while seemingly everyone else nearby does. I have likewise received many complaints from Fiskeville residents that they do not receive normal mail delivery, who have together described a wide variety of problems this causes them in their daily lives. I have confirmed with my colleagues in the Town of Scituate that they, too, have received complaints from their residents about this issue.

Because USPS databases do not recognize these otherwise valid residential street addresses in Fiskeville, the residents in the area really do suffer from a reduced quality of life. Simply trying to find one of these “Fiskeville” addresses on Google Maps (Google

thinks they are in Hope 02831), or trying to order restaurant or pizza delivery, or trying to get a package delivered, is an arduous task, because most geolocating services use USPS data as a baseline. As far as many of those services are concerned, Fiskeville addresses simply do not exist – and direct efforts by this office over the years to get those services to improve their data have proven completely ineffective. Concerningly, the issue expands to E911 emergency response, as well; while the city has assigned street numbers to these addresses, because USPS does not recognize them, and many mapping services cannot make sense of them, GPS directions used by emergency responders are often inaccurate or misleading, and it resultingly requires direct knowledge from individual emergency personnel to know where certain houses are.

I have heard limited rationale in the past – such as that the streets in Fiskeville are too narrow for postal service vehicles, for example. However, I have driven on all of the streets in question – for what it’s worth, I drive a Chevy Impala, the largest passenger car on the market – and found that they are no more or less narrow than many other streets in the city that receive normal mail delivery. In fact, many of these streets were resurfaced by Public Works in recent years, and are in great shape. Perhaps that was not always the case. And Main Street, where the majority of Fiskeville residents live, is itself a major road in the area. Certainly, if an individual side street is not suitable for delivery, a Contained Box Unit at the Main Street terminus of said problematic side street could solve that issue, without the extreme of having no mail delivery at all for the area.

After dozens of conversations with various USPS personnel from multiple departments and offices over the years, I am thoroughly satisfied that there is no apparent reason for Fiskeville residents to not receive normal postal service delivery. Perhaps, many decades ago – or even more than a century ago – there was such a justified reason, when this area was decidedly more rural or difficult to traverse. But there is no such rationale still apparent today. And if there is some reason, yet uncovered or explained despite all of the conversations we have had about this, I do not believe that reason can excuse all of these residents not receiving mail delivery – it must be clear and justified for each address.

I will note for the record that there are, as of this writing, only 78 registered voters on the Cranston side of Fiskeville, and a further 32 voters on the Scituate side of Main Street (and its associated side streets). The mailing issues faced by this total of 110 voters is the compelling rationale for the Canvassing Authority to pursue this official request, because as we now have seen repeatedly, in numerous election cycles, the fact that these voters cannot receive mail at their home addresses has led directly, in some cases, to their disenfranchisement. At the very least, it has complicated their ability to register to vote, receive important voter correspondence, and receive mail ballots – and this is no known reason for it to continue going on this way in perpetuity. If we have the power and ability to do something to fix this, we very well should.

Election officials have, at times, had to hand-deliver mail ballots to voters ourselves in Fiskeville because of these issues. While many voters have a PO Box, not all have one established – and those that do have one may not always have their PO Box information updated on their voter records. Nor do we have any way of contacting the

voters otherwise, as we cannot send them mail to their home addresses. Nor can many other city and state agencies, ranging from the DMV to Tax Collection.

I cannot stress enough that Fiskeville, unlike its historic roots, is now a built-up, modernized suburban neighborhood. It is no different, in all respects, to any other neighborhoods in the City of Cranston – except for some unknown reason it does not receive mail. The Postal Service, in countless areas of the country, will trek down long desert roads, into skyscrapers, or atop mountain ranges to deliver mail to customers. I see no reason that this residential neighborhood should be treated differently than any other nearby neighborhood that has normal mail delivery.

As far as residences go, there are four small, residential streets I am aware of in Scituate: **Clark Rd, Locust Ct, Colvin St, and Fairground Way**. These four streets contain a total of nine delivery addresses that our office is aware of. There are a further four “Fiskeville” streets I am aware of in Cranston: **Hall Ln, Main St, Roberts Ave, and Vaughn Ln**. The northernmost portion of Hall Ln actually gets residential delivery from the Hope Post Office, to my understanding. These four streets comprise a total of 35 residential addresses, give or take one or two.

There may be additional delivery addresses for commercial property, or addresses where there are no registered voters, however this area is so small that they likely can be counted on one hand. But for argument’s sake, there are a total of – at most – 50 deliverable addresses in Fiskeville, serving – at most – 100 to 120 people.

Both Cranston and Scituate have seen repeated construction of new subdivisions several times that size, which USPS makes operational adjustments for in order to establish mail delivery to. In Cranston, we have had new addresses going online in parts of the city on a monthly basis, ongoing for decades, that receive normal mail delivery, all as the city continues to grow. **What we are requesting is for the same operational change to be made to establish normal mail delivery for these 50 or so addresses in Fiskeville.**

I am making this request directly of the Providence Postmaster’s Office because the Fiskeville area borders the 02921 ZIP Code. One possible solution, operationally, would be to extend the 02921 coverage area to include Fiskeville. That said, the neighborhood also borders the Hope 02831 ZIP Code, so I suppose that is another possibility, or could even make more sense given its overlap into Scituate, as Hope does cover both communities while 02921 does not. Operational decisions such as these are of course far beyond my scope and entail a variety of considerations that I am not qualified to speak to, but that said, please copy and include any additional USPS officials on this correspondence as you may feel are necessary in order to analyze and properly respond to this request. I have, to start, copied and included Postmaster Kristen Schwartz from the Hope Post Office.

As an elections official, it is my sworn duty to uphold federal, state, and local laws regarding elections. When we identify systems or structures that serve as barriers to voting, it is our inherent responsibility to take action to remove those barriers to the best

of our ability. Fiskeville has long been identified as one of those barriers – but this Fiskeville issue goes far beyond just improving election mail delivery, voter registration, or reducing the disenfranchisement of voters. **It is a quality-of-life issue, a safety issue, and an equity issue for the people who call this corner of Cranston and Scituate their home.**

Thank you for your consideration of this formal request. I fully understand that an operational change of this nature can take some time to put into action, and provided that you agree with the points raised in this communication, I certainly do not expect it to be accomplished prior to this year's elections, or even before the end of the calendar year. However, it is my fervent hope that, over the next few months, USPS can come to a similar realization that there is no apparent reason for these constituents to not receive normal mail delivery at their homes; that USPS can establish an operational timeline to begin normal mail delivery for Fiskeville residents; that the residents can be properly notified to acquire appropriate mail receptacles in preparation for delivery; and that the decades-old series of real problems caused by the Fiskeville non-delivery area's existence can be permanently corrected and resolved.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 401-780-3128 or via email at nlima@cranstonri.gov. Again, thank you sincerely for your assistance in resolving this longstanding problem. I look forward to your response and am hopeful to move this discussion forward to an ultimate resolution.

I have been engaged in an ongoing conversation with USPS regarding Fiskeville for six years now – and the issue has persisted and was explored by my predecessors for many decades beyond that. At this point in time, it is long past due to take definitive action to solve this problem on a permanent basis. It would be a remarkable accomplishment, and something we could all be proud of achieving on behalf of the Fiskeville residents.

Very truly yours,



Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections

Cc: Kristen Schwartz, Postmaster, Hope, RI Post Office
Kerry Cimaglia, Customer Relations Coordinator, Providence Postmaster's Office
Rob Rock, Director of Elections, Rhode Island Department of State
Randall Jackvony, Chairperson, Cranston Board of Canvassers
Gloria Taylor, Canvassing Clerk, Town of Scituate

Encl. (2): Cranston, RI voters registered in "Fiskeville" as of 8-11-2022
Scituate, RI voters registered in "Fiskeville" as of 8-11-2022



7022 2410 0000 8657 4639

April 12, 2023

Mr. Nick Lima
Cranston Board of Canvassing

Dear Mr. Lima:

I am in receipt of your correspondence regarding your request to establish regular street delivery to the town of Fiskeville Rhode Island

The established delivery for Fiskeville is via free PO Box, located at the Fiskeville Post office. Every address withing Fiskeville falls within ½ mile, or less, of this Post Office.

As such, I regretfully cannot agree to establish mounted delivery in this territory at this time, as this would create a financial burden to the Postal Service to establish a delivery route with associated costs, such as mileage. DMM 508.4.5 provides for free PO Box service pursuant to the above referenced conditions.

4.5 Fee Group Assignments

4.5.1 Basic Information on Fee Groups

PO Boxes are assigned to fee groups (see [Notice 123—Price List](#) or contact the local Post Office) and classified as competitive or market-dominant based upon the Post Office location.

4.5.2 Fee Group E — Free PO Box Service

Customers may qualify for Group E (free) PO Box service at a Post Office if their physical address location meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The physical address is within the geographic delivery ZIP Code boundaries administered by a Post Office.
- b. The physical address constitutes a potential carrier delivery point of service.
- c. USPS does not provide carrier delivery to a mail receptacle at or near a physical address for reasons in [4.5.3b](#). "At or near a physical address" is defined by reference to how carrier delivery is established in a particular locale or ZIP Code.

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AND REGISTRATION

4.5.3 Additional Standards for Free PO Box Service

Only one Group E (free) PO Box may be obtained for each potential carrier delivery point of service, under the following conditions:

- a. Group E PO Box customers are assigned the smallest available box that reasonably accommodates their daily mail volume.
- b. Eligibility for Group E PO Boxes does not extend to:
 1. Individual tenants, contractors, employees, or other individuals receiving or eligible to receive single-point delivery to a location such as a hotel, college, military installation, campground, or transient trailer park.
 2. Locations served, or eligible to be served, by centralized delivery or grouped receptacles such as cluster box units, apartment style receptacles, mailrooms, or clusters of roadside receptacles.
 3. Locations where circumstances not within the control of the Postal Service prevent extension of carrier delivery, such as town ordinances, private roads, gated communities, unimproved or poorly maintained roadways, or unsafe conditions.

DMM 4.5.3b

I am aware of previous specific concerns you had expressed regarding exclusive post office box delivery for Fiskeville, which were resolved by the Postmaster.

While I understand your questions as well as your frustration in this matter, this is a fairly common scenario, the solution to which has been provided for by Postal regulation.

You may appeal this decision in writing to:

Tim Haney

Director, Delivery Strategy & Policy

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW – Rm 7126

Washington, DC 20260-0004

Sincerely,



Michael Rakes
District Manager/Executive in Charge Retail and Delivery

Randall A. Jackvony

Chairperson

Nicholas J. Lima

Registrar / Director of Elections



Quilcia I. Moronta

Member

VACANT

Member

**CRANSTON BOARD OF CANVASSERS
869 PARK AVE
CRANSTON, RI 02910-2786**

April 24, 2023

Mr. Tim Haney

Director, Delivery Strategy & Policy

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW – Rm 7126

Washington, DC 20260-0004

RE: Establishment of Normal Mail Delivery for Fiskeville, RI Non-Delivery Area

Dear Mr. Haney:

I am writing in response to a letter this office received dated April 12, 2023, regarding the City of Cranston Canvassing Authority's request to establish regular street delivery to the Fiskeville, Rhode Island neighborhood. The letter contained incorrect information and rationale in denying our request that we wish to correct.

I am hereby formally writing to appeal the decision, and in doing so wish to provide information correcting the inaccuracies described in the April 12 letter, as well as to add additional information that I hope USPS will consider in making its decision.

First and foremost, the April 12 letter states that USPS *"cannot agree to establish mounted delivery in this territory at this time, as this would create a financial burden to the Postal Service to establish a delivery route with associated costs, such as mileage."*

In response to this statement, I sincerely question its accuracy. The Fiskeville Post Office, located at 206 Main St., predominantly exists to provide PO Boxes for the Fiskeville residents – it serves no other apparent operational purpose. This is made abundantly clear because the much larger Hope Post Office, located at 134 Jackson Flat Rd., **is located only 0.6 miles away** from the Fiskeville Post Office – it is also, essentially, located on the same street. The Hope Postmaster likewise oversees the Fiskeville Post Office.

It is beyond reason to believe that operating two separate post office buildings within half a mile of each other is somehow **less expensive** than providing regular mail delivery, from the Hope Post Office, to the several dozen delivery points in Fiskeville that are likewise half a mile away from Hope. The only cost cited in the letter, "mileage," is incomparable to the cost to rent the Fiskeville Post Office, provide utilities, supplies, and security for it, and staff that office during business hours, all of which would be wholly

unnecessary expenses should such a route (or partial route, due to the small number of delivery points in Fiskeville) be established.

I raised this point in my original letter (attached for reference) – it is inconceivable how establishing normal mail delivery in this area, which would eliminate the need to operate the Fiskeville Post Office, would be more costly to the Postal Service than continuing to operate that office – notwithstanding the substantial existing rationale for doing so.

Secondly, the letter states, *“I am aware of previous specific concerns you had expressed regarding exclusive post office box delivery for Fiskeville, which were resolved by the Postmaster.”* This statement is false – no such concerns, to my knowledge, have been resolved by the Postmaster, and if they have, they have not been communicated to this office. I honestly have no idea what resolved concerns the letter is referencing in this instance – we have brought up many issues regarding quality of life and non-delivery of election mail, none of which have been resolved. To this day, we continue to have many voters registered in the Fiskeville neighborhoods of Cranston and Scituate who have no PO Box on record, and therefore cannot receive Official Election Mail, or have their mail ballots returned as undeliverable. We also receive statistically large quantities of undeliverable election mail back to our office that is intended to reach these residents.

Third, the referenced Postal Regulation 4.5.2, which is referred to as the *“solution”* to the frustration the City of Cranston, Town of Scituate, and residents of these two municipalities in Fiskeville have experienced, appears to be grossly misapplied in this case. Fiskeville is **not** within the geographic delivery ZIP Code boundary administered by any Post Office – our own communications with AMS confirmed that AMS does not maintain records of the street addresses within Fiskeville, so no ZIP code is assigned to them. The neighborhood seems to “not exist” as far as USPS address management data is concerned, which is a source of many of the quality of life issues the residents experience on a daily basis. It is unknown what geographic ZIP Code boundary Fiskeville falls into, despite numerous requests to USPS over seven years asking that exact question.

Furthermore, Postal Regulation 4.5.3 contains no rationale in either Subsection 1, Subsection 2, or Subsection 3 that is applicable to Fiskeville. These are residential addresses, on paved and well-maintained public roads, and are not on private roads or gated communities. Additionally, while there are no present CBUs, in previous discussions with the Postmaster, a CBU was identified as a possible solution to the problems experienced – this solution, too, would require service point delivery to the CBUs, and their use would likewise eliminate the need for the Fiskeville Post Office, again, considering the Hope Post Office’s location only half a mile from the area.

Per my first point, it is hard to imagine any scenario where the cost of establishing normal mail delivery for the few dozen delivery point addresses in Fiskeville would somehow exceed the continuing cost of operating the Fiskeville Post Office. There is no appreciable reason for this office to exist, if the residents were to start to receive normal mail service, and any remaining PO Boxes are simply transferred to the Hope Post Office located 0.6 miles away.

I am likewise disappointed that the denial letter addressed **none of the concerns raised about reported quality of life issues for residents, did not provide any rationale why these residents were designated as ineligible to receive mail in the original decision-making for mail service in this area**, and, pointedly, **did not address any of the Official Election Mail issues that were raised in the original letter**, which were the primary catalyst and motivation for the Cranston Board of Canvassers directing me to pursue this request in the first place, in light of the approaching 2024 election cycle.

Thank you for reviewing this additional and clarified information, and I hope you strongly consider it in deciding this appeal. Even after nearly seven years of working with USPS to resolve delivery issues in Fiskeville, we still have yet to be provided with a clear rationale as to why the handful of residents in this area could not receive regular mail delivery in the first place, while their literal next-door neighbors readily can.

I understand the regulations that allow for free PO Boxes in non-delivery zones, however, as illustrated above, I contest that they are applicable in this circumstance, and that Fiskeville should be a non-delivery area at all. I further add that the proposed solution of establishing regular mail delivery may, and should very well, be more cost-effective and efficient for USPS, considering the existence of the Hope Post Office 0.6 miles away.

If this appeal is again denied, I hope that you can provide a more thorough and satisfactory explanation. The status quo in the area has not worked, and simply is not working. Establishing normal mail delivery for Fiskeville residents is a real, working solution that could be beneficial not just for the residents and our voters, but also for USPS operations if it removes the need for the continued operation of the Fiskeville Post Office. Thank you again for your consideration of this formal request and appeal.

Very truly yours,



Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar / Director of Elections

VIA EMAIL Cc:

Adrienne E. Marshall, USPS Executive Director Election & Government Mail Services
Kerry Cimaglia, USPS Customer Relations Coordinator, Providence Postmaster's Office
Kathy Placencia, Director of Elections, Rhode Island Department of State
Rob Rock, Deputy Secretary of State, Rhode Island Department of State
Randall Jackvony, Chairperson, Cranston Board of Canvassers
Gloria Taylor, Canvassing Clerk, Town of Scituate, Rhode Island

Encl. (1): Aug. 11, 2022 Letter to USPS Requesting Establishment of Mail Delivery

Delivery Strategy and Policy



BOARD OF CANVASSERS
AND REGISTRATION
CRANSTON, R.I.

2023 JUN 26 A 10:49

CERTIFIED NO.
7022 3330 0000 9612 4802

June 22, 2023

Nicholas J. Lima
Registrar/Director of Elections
869 Park Ave.
Cranston, RI 02910-2786

RE: Street delivery request for Fiskeville, RI 02823

Dear Mr. Lima:

This letter is in response to your correspondence regarding street delivery for Fiskeville, RI 02823, and the subsequent denial by the district manager. After a thorough review of the case file and the details provided by the district, the final determination of this office is to support the denial of this request.

Fiskeville residents currently receive free Post Office box delivery due to their proximity to the Post Office. There would be costs to the U.S. Postal Service for implementing street delivery due to the need for additional workhours associated with sorting and curblane delivery as well as vehicle expenses. Additionally, the remaining Fiskeville Post Office box customers would receive their mail later since the Post Office Box mail would be transported from the Hope Post Office back to the Fiskeville Post Office.

Sincerely,

E-SIGNED by Timothy M Haney
on 2023-06-22 16:15:50 CDT

Timothy Haney
Director, Delivery Strategy and Policy
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

cc: Michael W. Rakes, District Manager, MA-RI District
Frank Bowen, Manager, Operations Integration, MA-RI District
Lorayne T. Young, Manager, Address Management Systems, MA-RI District
Dustin Van Veldhuizen, Rural Delivery Specialist, Headquarters



January 24, 2024

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-3903

Dear Senator Reed:

This responds to your December 11, 2023, letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy on behalf of Mr. Nicholas J. Lima, Registrar and Director of Elections for the City of Cranston Canvassing Authority, concerning mail delivery service.

I understand your interest in assisting Mr. Lima with his concerns. Please know that mail delivery, without charge to the recipient, is available to all postal customers throughout the nation. The U.S. Postal Service is committed to making sure it is provided in a fair, equitable, economical, and efficient manner. To do so, we have developed different delivery methods to meet the needs of different areas. These range from delivery by highway contractors, rural or city carrier delivery, and Post Office Box.

When policies for rural delivery were first established, it was determined that residents within a quarter-mile radius of the Post Office would not receive carrier delivery service; rather, they would receive a small Post Office Box—at no cost—to accommodate their normal mail volume. Accordingly, Fiskeville residents receive free Post Office box delivery due to their proximity to the Post Office.

As noted in your correspondence, Mr. Lima requested a change from Post Office box to carrier delivery service in Fiskeville. Massachusetts-Rhode Island District Manager Michael Rakes reviewed the request and subsequently denied it, citing costs, and informed Mr. Lima of this decision in an April 12, 2023, letter. Mr. Lima then utilized the appeal to Postal Service headquarters offered in Mr. Rakes' letter. In a June 22 response, Delivery Strategy and Policy Director Timothy Haney noted that he thoroughly reviewed the matter and supported the denial of the request. He added that there would be costs to the to implement street delivery from the resulting need for additional workhours to sort and deliver mail to these addresses as well as vehicle expenses. Furthermore, the remaining Fiskeville Post Office box customers would receive their mail later since the Post Office Box mail would need to be transported from the Hope Post Office to the Fiskeville Post Office.

Costs are important considerations when reviewing requests for changes in delivery service. As you know, the Postal Service is unique among federal agencies in that we do not receive tax dollars through the Congressional appropriations process to fund our regular operations. Rather, the Postal Service relies on the sale of our products and services to cover operating expenses. Our goal is to continue to provide affordable, high-quality mail service to everyone in America—today and well into the future.

In addressing Mr. Lima's concerns, it is important to note that street names and numbers are assigned by local municipalities and do not fall under the administrative purview of the Postal Service. When local municipalities finalize address assignments, they are forwarded to the Postal Service for addition to our database to establish mail delivery service. The sole purpose of mailing addresses, including the city name and ZIP Code, is to direct customers' mail to the proper delivery office serving that address. In Fiskeville, customers' mailing addresses are their Post Office boxes.

While I recognize that Mr. Lima may be dissatisfied with this response, it accurately reflects the Postal Service's policy and position in this matter.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance in other postal issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Scott R. Slusher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Scott R. Slusher
Director, Government Liaison

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THE CITY OF CRANSTON

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ESTABLISH NORMAL
RESIDENTIAL MAIL DELIVERY TO THE RESIDENTS OF FISKEVILLE

No. 2024-16

Passed:

April 22, 2024



Jessica M. Marino, Council President

WHEREAS, Fiskeville residents have communicated to city officials that the lack of residential mail delivery has harmed their quality of life and resulted in delays in the receipt of mail, and

WHEREAS, the Canvassing Authority has spent seven years investigating this matter and attempting to work with the United States Postal Service (USPS) to develop a satisfactory resolution, as documented in the attached letter from the Registrar, that shall be included by reference and incorporated into the official record upon adoption of this Resolution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Honorable Cranston City Council:

1. Finds the current state of mail delivery for Fiskeville residents to be unacceptable and inequitable, is deeply concerned about the inconsistent application of USPS policies used to justify not providing residential mail delivery, and finds the rationale provided by USPS to be unsatisfactory, unduly delayed, and incomplete in addressing the concerns raised, and
2. Respectfully requests USPS reconsider this matter in light of the numerous issues it demonstrably causes for residents, election administration, and city operations, including a consideration of the consolidation of the Hope and Fiskeville Post Offices as a means to offset the claimed costs of establishing mail delivery for Fiskeville residents, and
3. Requests the continued assistance of the Hon. Sen. Reed, and additionally requests the assistance of the Hon. Sen. Whitehouse and the Hon. Rep. Magaziner, as well as the Hon. Secretary of State Amore, in communicating with USPS collaboratively to permanently resolve the aforementioned quality of life, mail delivery, and voter registration and voting issues, and
4. Directs the City Clerk to send a certified copy of this resolution to USPS, the Hon. Senators Reed and Whitehouse, the Hon. Rep. Magaziner, and the Hon. Secretary of State Amore.

Sponsored by Councilman Ferri, Councilman Campopiano, and Council President Marino
Co-sponsored by: Councilwomen Renzulli, Germain, Councilmen Donegan, Wall, Paplauskas and Council Vice-President Vargas

Refer to Ordinance Committee on April 11, 2024



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, *Secretary of State*

June 3, 2024

All Applicable Officers in Charge (OIC)
United States Postal Service
VIA EMAIL

RE: Establishment of Regular Mail Delivery for Fiskeville Residents

To the United States Postal Service OIC:

As Rhode Island's Secretary of State and designated Chief State Election Official under the National Voter Registration Act, I am writing to make the United States Postal Service (USPS) aware of my office's support for the efforts of the City of Cranston to request the establishment of regular mail delivery for the residents of Fiskeville, Rhode Island.

For the last seven years, the Department of State's Elections Division has been kept well-apprised of efforts by the City of Cranston and the Cranston Board of Canvassers to improve the delivery of Official Election Mail for residents of the Fiskeville neighborhood, which comprises a small portion of both Cranston and the neighboring Town of Scituate, Rhode Island. I applaud the efforts of local election officials for strongly advocating on behalf of Fiskeville voters and residents. Residents have, on numerous occasions, voiced their concerns about the harm to accurate mail delivery caused by their neighborhood's "P.O. Box-only" status, as designated by USPS.

The Cranston Board of Canvassers has noted ongoing complications with Fiskeville voters registering to vote, receiving Official Election Mail correspondence from state and local election offices, and voting by mail, which all can lead to voter disenfranchisement. These issues, and the integrity of our elections process, may be considerably improved if USPS reconsiders its policies as they pertain to mail delivery practices in Fiskeville.

I urge USPS to work collaboratively with City of Cranston election officials to permanently remedy this issue, including the establishment of regular mail delivery for Fiskeville residents, which the Hon. Cranston City Council formally requested in Resolution 2024-16, passed unanimously on April 22, 2024. I appreciate the Council bringing this matter to my office's attention and requesting our assistance, and I join with the Council in both echoing and supporting the City's official request to USPS.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Rhode Island Secretary of State

Cc: The Hon. John F. Reed, United States Senator from Rhode Island
The Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse, United States Senator from Rhode Island
The Hon. Seth M. Magaziner, Congressman from Rhode Island (CD-2)
The Hon. Members of the Cranston City Council
Kirk McDonough, Chairperson, Cranston Board of Canvassers

State House, Room 218, Providence, RI 02903

Phone: 401-222-2357 | Fax: 401-222-1356 | secretaryamore@sos.ri.gov | www.sos.ri.gov



August 28, 2024

The Honorable Gregg M. Amore
Rhode Island Secretary of State
State House
82 Smith Street, Suite 218
Providence, RI 02903-1120

Dear Secretary Amore:

This is in response to your June 3 letter regarding mail delivery service in Fiskeville.

Please know that mail delivery, without charge to the recipient, is available to all postal customers throughout the nation. The U.S. Postal Service is committed to making sure it is provided in a fair, equitable, economical, and efficient manner. To do so, we have developed different delivery methods to meet the needs of different areas. These range from delivery by highway contractors, rural or city carrier delivery, and Post Office Box.

When the Postal Service first developed policies for rural delivery, we determined that residents within a quarter-mile radius of the Post Office would not receive carrier delivery service; rather, they would receive a Post Office Box at no cost. Accordingly, Fiskeville residents receive free Post Office box delivery due to their proximity to the Post Office.

Cranston town officials previously requested a change from Post Office box to carrier delivery service in Fiskeville. The Postal Service's Massachusetts-Rhode Island District Manager reviewed the request and subsequently denied it, citing the additional costs of changing the established mode of delivery, and informed the proponents of this decision in April 2023. Cranston officials then utilized the appeal to postal headquarters offered in the district's letter. In June 2023, headquarters officials supported the denial of the request, noting that there would be costs to implement carrier delivery service from the resulting need for additional workhours to sort and deliver mail to these addresses as well as vehicle expenses. Furthermore, the remaining Fiskeville Post Office box customers would receive their mail later since the Post Office Box mail would need to be transported from the Hope Post Office to the Fiskeville Post Office.

Efficiency and cost-effectiveness are important considerations when reviewing requests for changes in delivery service. As you may know, the Postal Service is unique among federal agencies in that we do not receive tax dollars through the congressional appropriations process to fund our regular operations. Rather, the Postal Service relies on the sale of our products and services to cover operating expenses. Our goal is to continue to provide affordable, high-quality mail service to everyone in America—today and well into the future.

Those who receive mail via the Fiskeville Post Office should use their Post Office box number—and the Fiskeville community name and ZIP Code—as their mailing address. While their physical address may be a street address in Cranston or Scituate, they do not receive mail at that address. As you are aware, the Rhode Island voter registration form recognizes that the difference between street addresses and mailing addresses, as the form includes sections for both.

It also should be noted that we deliver daily to 167 million addresses throughout the U.S., and there are many locations throughout the nation where one's physical address is different from one's mailing address, including those who receive their mail at a Post Office box. For the purposes of receiving mail,

the mailing address should be used. In response to your concern about the delivery of ballots and election material in Fiskeville, there should be no difficulty in delivering such mail timely and accurately if the correct mailing addresses (the Post Office boxes) are used.

In summary, the Postal Service has reviewed and denied the request and appeal for a change in the type of mail delivery service in Fiskeville based on costs and operational considerations. As such, we will continue to provide Post Office box delivery service to these residents. Regardless of the type of mail delivery that we provide in a particular area, you can be assured that we are committed to providing all customers with high-quality, reliable service.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James J. Holland".

James Holland
Manager, Customer Relations
Massachusetts-Rhode Island District