



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT
THE BRONX COUNTY BUILDING
851 GRAND CONCOURSE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10451

RUBEN DIAZ JR.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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April 1, 2013

Vice President of Facilities
Facilities Implementation
2 Congress Street, Room 8
Milford, MA. 01757

Re: Bronx General Post Office at 558 Grand Concourse

Dear Sir or Madam:

We write to offer our strongest objections to the proposed sale of the Bronx General Post Office facility at 588 Grand Concourse, as well as the proposed relocation of retail services currently available at this facility.

On February 6, 2013 at 10:00 AM, there was a public hearing at the Bronx General Post Office, at which dozens of individuals and organizations testified in opposition to both the relocation of Postal Service retail services and closure of the building. We are appalled that, despite requests for further community consultative processes at that hearing, the United States Postal Service has seen fit to issue a final sale determination, rather than pursue engagement with community stakeholders, including elected officials.

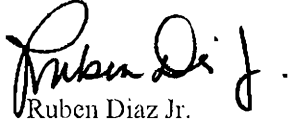
In fact, the Postal Service seems to have taken the opposite approach. At the February hearing, the United States Postal Service was unable to demonstrate that a community consultative process had been instituted as part of the community notification process. Moreover, the United States Postal Service's subsequent refusal to host an evening hearing in the affected community or accept comments on this proposal via electronic means, when taken together, seem designed to minimize public input during this important process. Lastly, there has been no consideration of maintaining postal retail services at the current historic Bronx GPO.

Together, we remain adamantly opposed to closing this vital and historically significant resource. We cannot imagine that anyone with any knowledge of the importance of this building to Bronx County would consider the relocation of its retail services and its closure. The building sits at the intersection of East 149th Street and the Grand Concourse and Boulevard, two of the principal thoroughfares of the borough. Additionally, the building was designated by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1976 and is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places as well. A portion of the Grand Concourse and Boulevard has also been designated as a Special Grand Concourse Preservation Zoning District.

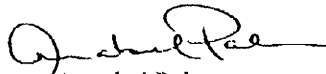
The building's design, including its grand interior and artistically significant murals make transacting business at this flagship facility an ennobling experience and a succession of interior and exterior public spaces of great pride to the borough. The building serves as a focal point for critical residential and transportation services, and is an institutional and commercial nexus for the borough. Its loss would have severe implications for the entirety of the Bronx. We cannot and will not accept that the Postal Service could come to such a deleterious determination affecting such an important part of our Bronx heritage.

We urge you to reconsider this decision at once.

Sincerely,



Ruben Diaz Jr.
Bronx Borough President



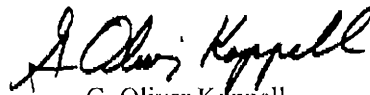
Annabel Palma
NYC Council



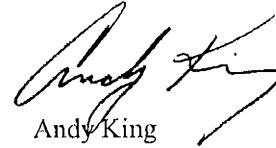
Joel Rivera
NYC Council



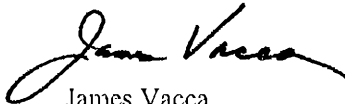
Melissa Mark Viverito
NYC Council



G. Oliver Koppell
NYC Council



Andy King
NYC Council



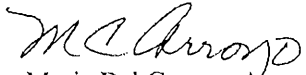
James Vacca
NYC Council



Fernando Cabrera
NYC Council



Helen Diane Foster
NYC Council



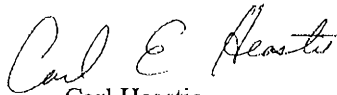
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
NYC Council



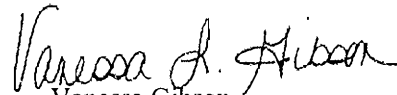
Jeffrey Dinowitz
NYS Assembly



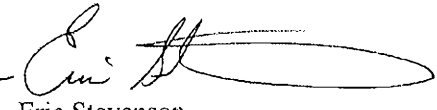
Nelson Castro
NYS Assembly



Carl Heastie
NYS Assembly



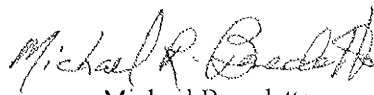
Vanessa Gibson
NYS Assembly



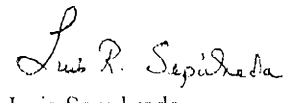
Eric Stevenson
NYS Assembly



Mark Gjonaj
NYS Assembly



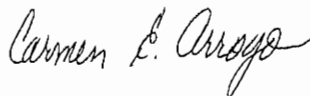
Michael Benedetto
NYS Assembly



Luis Sepulveda
NYS Assembly



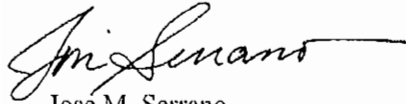
Marcos Crespo
NYS Assembly



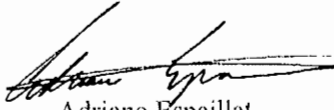
Carmen Arroyo
NYS Assembly



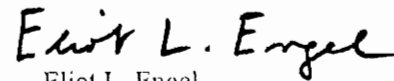
Rev. Ruben Diaz
NYS Senate



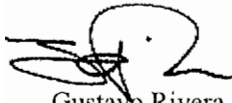
Jose M. Serrano
NYS Senate



Adriano Espaillat
NYS Senate



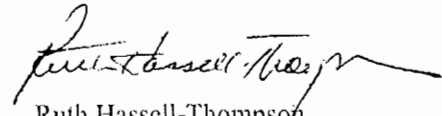
Eliot L. Engel
House of Representatives



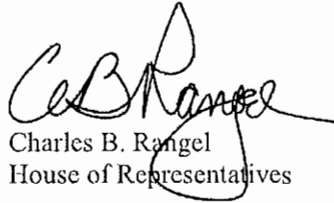
Gustavo Rivera
NYS Senate



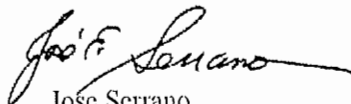
Jeffrey D. Klein
NYS Senate



Ruth Hassell-Thompson
NYS Senate



Charles B. Rangel
House of Representatives



Jose Serrano
House of Representatives

cc: Patrick R. Donahoe
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Michael Bloomberg
Mayor
New York City