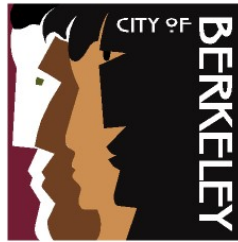


Office of the Mayor



Jesse Arreguín
Mayor

June 26, 2017

Mr. Dean Cameron
United States Postal Service
Real Estate Specialist – Leasing Team
1300 Evans Avenue, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94188-8200

Re: Richmond Main Post Office

Dear Mr. Cameron,

The City of Berkeley is deeply concerned with the proposed relocation and sale of the historic Richmond Main Post Office located at 1025 Nevin Avenue, Richmond, California. Both the relocation of the retail post office function and the disposition of the building have the potential to adversely affect this historic property.

Residents of Richmond value this historic Post Office. It is constantly busy and there is no indication that this public service is underused. If the Postal Service believes it is oversized for current service requirements, then it should be subdivided and the excess space leased to a complementary tenant. This continuous cash flow could ensure the maintenance of this community asset. We object to the position taken by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), that there are economic reasons to move critical services for downtown Richmond to the less convenient Richmond McVittie Detached Delivery Unit.

The City of Berkeley remains steadfast in our fight of over 5 years to save the historic Berkeley Main Post Office. As a neighbor of the Richmond community, we also stand in solidarity with the efforts of this community to save its public commons.

Our post offices not only provide mailing services and decent union jobs, but they are central to and anchor town centers across the country. The issue of closing post offices is bigger than Richmond and Berkeley. Access to postal service, not only in urban environments but in our most remote areas of the country, is enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. This important part of our freedom as Americans, both individuals and businesses, ensures our right to freedom of speech and communication and provides equity to all.

Councilmembers of the City of Berkeley support the desires of the Richmond community in their efforts to retain the historic Richmond Main Post Office and its services. We urge that the USPS reconsider the plan to close and relocate.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jesse Arreguin