




From: John Compton johncompton@me.com 
Subject: Lack of mail delivery in the Town of Washington Grove, MD

Date: July 30, 2022 at 5:54 PM

To: ROBERT.NEAL@usps.gov ROBERT.NEAL@USPS.GOV, LORA.M.MCLUCAS@usps.gov LORA.M.MCLUCAS@USPS.GOV,
 SHAWNEE.B.DUKES@usps.gov SHAWNEE.B.DUKES@USPS.GOV, HUGO.B.ALDANA@usps.gov
 HUGO.B.ALDANA@USPS.GOV, KYONG.S.LEE@usps.gov KYONG.S.LEE@USPS.GOV

Cc: John McClelland jmac110@msn.com, Raizada, Max - Denver, CO max.x.raizada@usps.gov

Dear Sirs,

I'm forwarding to all of you this email exchange with Max Raizada at USPS-HQ. The context of our discussion with follows upon the "closed case" letter (**attached**) which my elected representatives and I received from Mr. James Cari, Government Relations (no email provided). And on which all of you were copied.

Mr. Cari's assertions concerning Washington Grove ordinances are cryptic, non-specific and without merit. He implies that the absence of mail delivery in Washington Grove - and thus the necessity of residents renting post office boxes at high fees - is the result of actions by the Town of Washington Grove. In fact neither he, local USPS representatives or USPS Headquarters staff have cited specific actions or produced specific documentation that this is the case. Citations in Max Raizada's email are equally vague and perplexing.

Thus this matter remains unresolved. I have highlighted below the conclusions and specific actions I am requesting from the USPS to resolve this issue.

I hope I have your attention, and that I will be contacted very soon on this matter.

John

John G. Compton
 Mayor, Town of Washington Grove

=====
 240-432-5700 (cell)
 301-926-2256 (Town Office)

Town of Washington Grove
 P.O. Box 216
 300 Grove Ave.
 Washington Grove, MD 20880
 =====

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Compton <johncompton@me.com>
Subject: Washington Grove - PLEASE USE THIS MORE ACCURATE EMAIL
Date: July 26, 2022 at 5:40:53 PM EDT
To: "Raizada, Max - Denver, CO" <max.x.raizada@usps.gov>
Cc: "Aldana, Hugo B - Washington, DC" <hugo.b.aldana@usps.gov>, John McClelland <jmac110@msn.com>

Dear Mr. Raizada,

You provided the email below in response to my inquiries into why Washington Grove does not have local mail delivery and why the only local option for our residents is to rent increasingly expensive post office boxes from the USPS. You will recall we spoke by phone in May/June. Here I'm providing you the following comments to refute the assertion that this matter is resolved, and I suggest we move forward to explore a meaningful solution.

You will not be surprised that I assert that the justification for no mail delivery in Washington Grove that you and others have cited is vague, inadequate, and in reality, even irrelevant. No agreement of any kind between

Washington Grove and the USPS concerning mail delivery has been produced or cited. Instead two sentences from the Town's Master Plan are quoted, one being merely a statement of historical and current fact that "The Town's postal needs have been provided over the years by a local post office rather than home mail deliveries.", and the other a statement about traffic on Town streets to which mail delivery is in no way consequential. There is no language in our Master Plan that rejects or recommends against residential mail delivery. The 2009 Master Plan is, in fact, silent on this issue.

The only reasonable conclusions are the following after an objective examination of the situation regarding mail service or the lack thereof in Washington Grove:

The first conclusion, since there is no definitive documentation to the contrary, *is that the lack of mail service in Washington Grove rests on the historical acquiescence of our residents.* This has been extended to the USPS because of our historically ready access to free or low cost post office services, neither of which is the case today.

The second conclusion *is that the USPS has no valid basis to deny the present request from the residents of Washington Grove for the free mail service to which they are entitled.* Due to current USPS policies regarding Washington Grove, the acquiescence I've noted above has been withdrawn. Neither Washington Grove or the USPS can document any agreement that bears on the absence of mail service.

Therefore it is incumbent on the USPS to engage with Washington Grove to reach an agreement as to how mail service to our residents will be provided going forward.

I believe the USPS must acknowledge that the current situation requires direct discussion to resolve. Please let me know promptly of when we can engage in meaningful discussion of options to resolve the current situation to everyone's satisfaction.

John

John G. Compton
Mayor, Town of Washington Grove

=====
240-432-5700 (cell)
301-926-2256 (Town Office)

Town of Washington Grove
P.O. Box 216
300 Grove Ave.
Washington Grove, MD 20880
=====

On Jun 1, 2022, at 5:49 PM, Raizada, Max - Denver, CO <max.x.raizada@usps.gov> wrote:

Hello Mayor Compton – per our conversation from this afternoon...below is what we had for Washington Grove. The town decided against street delivery and opted for paid PO Boxes...please see the attached Master Plan AND a few key points below.

As for the rates of the PO Boxes, Washington Grove is a Premium PO Box location...the price change is based on what the market will sustain. This location was upgraded in 2011 because there was a competitor that offered Mailbox service within 5 miles of the post office.

Prices increase each year, in general, as the costs of doing business — for items such as fuel, transportation, utilities, and health care benefits — have continued to increase. Postal operations are not subsidized by tax dollars. We rely on the sale of postal products and services to cover our operating costs.

Attached is a 66-page 2009 Washington Grove MD master plan...below are some key points:

- 1975 – Original Master Plan was published
- 1980 – The town was listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Covenant – Page 54 – The Town's postal needs have been provided over the years by a local post office rather than home mail deliveries
- The Reason – Page 21 – To ensure the existing, historic community of Washington Grove is preserved, residential roads at the Town's periphery and within the Town must be protected from additional traffic

According to the Postmaster and their Manager (Hugo Aldana) – All residents that buy or sell homes are informed about no in-home mail delivery and that they must get a PO Box. This is not a widespread customer issue. The complaints they are getting is about the return packages from other carriers using their home street addresses...perfect candidates for street style addressing.

I have added Hugo to this email as he oversees your Post Office along with many others in your area. He is your local contact if/when you have any issues.

Thank you for reaching out to me...and hope this helps answer your questions.

Max Raizada
Lead-Principal Product Management Specialist
Product Solutions, USPS-HQ
303-243-4185 (cell)

From: John Compton <johncompton@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Raizada, Max - Denver, CO <max.x.raizada@usps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Grove

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Dear Mr. Raizada,

Thank you much for taking the time to talk with me today (while driving to the airport..?!). As we concluded our call, the matter of mail service (delivery or access) to the residents of Washington Grove needs further discussion.

I look forward to continuing the discussion in the very near future. My contact information is below.

John

John G. Compton
Mayor, Town of Washington Grove
=====
Email: johncompton@me.com
Cell: 240-432-5700

Town of Washington Grove
P.O. Box 216
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Washington Grove, MD 20880

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[Email: washgrove@comcast.net](mailto:washgrove@comcast.net)
=====

<Wash Grove 2009_MasterPlan-Aldana.pdf>





October 21, 2021

The Honorable David Trone
Member of Congress
9801 Washingtonian Boulevard, Suite 330
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-7385

Dear Congressman Trone:

This responds to your recent correspondence on behalf of Mayor John G. Compton of Washington Grove, regarding mail delivery service.

I understand your interest in assisting Mayor Compton with his concerns. The U.S. Postal Service makes every effort to provide our customers with convenient, affordable delivery services. Given the wide variety of local conditions we encounter, however, we necessarily have developed different delivery methods to meet the needs of different areas. These range from delivery by highway contractors, to rural and city carrier delivery, to fee-free Post Office Boxes, to other, varied methods.

In this case, Maryland District officials reported that Washington Grove previously enacted several ordinances that limit the Postal Service's ability to provide carrier delivery service. In addition, Retail officials at postal headquarters advised that eligibility for fee-free Post Office Boxes does not extend to locations where circumstances not within the control of the Postal Service prevent extension of carrier delivery, such as town ordinances. Finally, I should note that General Delivery service is intended primarily as a temporary means of delivery for transients and customers not permanently located and for customers who want Post Office Box service when boxes are unavailable.

Should Mayor Compton have any further questions or concerns, he may contact the Maryland District Consumer Affairs office at (202) 636-1200. District officials have administrative responsibility over postal operations in the area and ensure that local Post Offices are meeting national standards.

Thank you for writing. Please let me know if I can assist you with other postal issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Cari".

James Cari
Government Relations Representative

bcc:

ROBERT NEAL
MANAGER
DELIVERY POLICY & PRACTICES
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ROBERT.NEAL@USPS.GOV

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WASHINGTON GROVE MD 20880-9998

KYONG.S.LEE@USPS.GOV

Case ID :633964
Case Type :POST OFFICE BOXES
Due Date :2021-08-13
Sign Code :51
NOH 10/20
AJS 10/20/2021
JC 1021
KD 10/21/21