

IN MAJOR PHILADELPHIA RALLY POSTAL WORKERS WARN AGAINST USPS ATTACKS ON MAIL SERVICE *3,000 Expected to Rally Today at 30th & Market St Post Office*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Sally Davidow
(202) 368-3324
Alex Dresner
(202) 337-0808

PHILADELPHIA, PA (August 17, 2006) – 3,000 postal workers will stage a major rally today, protesting actions of the United States Postal Service that have led to a dramatic deterioration in mail service in the Philadelphia area and across the nation.

***** Today's rally will take place at 11:30 a.m., outside the 30th and Market Streets Post Office. Media interviews can be secured by calling Sally Davidow at (202) 368-3324*****

"We are rallying to tell the USPS that enough is enough. It is time to stop jeopardizing reliable and efficient mail service. It is time to put our customers first again," said William Burrus, President of the American Postal Workers Union. "USPS management must allow postal workers to provide their invaluable service and stop hindering them at every turn."

Postal workers are warning customers to expect week-long delays in mail delivery under a Postal Service plan to close parts of mail processing facilities across the nation. Last month, the USPS was forced to reveal a secret memo targeting 139 sorting facilities across the nation for consolidation. If the plan is put into effect, postal customers will suffer from:

- Week-long delays in the delivery of mail;
- Mail deliveries arriving later in the day – sometimes even in the evening;
- Mail collection taking place earlier in the day
- Loss of local postmarks

In Philadelphia, the USPS transferred mail sorting operations from the historic facility at 30th and Market Streets to a new location in Southwest Philadelphia. Since then, news reports have chronicled a litany of service failures: campaign mailings that were never delivered or that were delivered after an election; solicitations for charities that arrived after advertising campaigns ended.

(more)

The Postal Service has also reduced staff at local post offices, leaving the system chronically under-staffed and under-skilled. Now, in a panicked attempt to offset the effects on service, the USPS has been violating its contract with postal workers by hiring unskilled temporary workers to replace career employees.

Today's rally follows the launch of a major advertising campaign by the American Postal Workers Union, representing 300,000 USPS employees. The ad – running in multiple markets across the country - calls on postal management to renounce plans that would degrade mail service by “consolidating” the mail processing and distribution network. The ad can be viewed at www.apwu.org.