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Via Facsimile & First-Class Mail

January 7, 2011

Mr. John Dockins
Manager, Contract Administration
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

Re: USPS Plans to Remove Bullet Resistant Glazing at Counter of Retail Facilities

Dear Mr. Dockins:

I am writing in response to your letter dated December 23, 2010 (received on December 28th) in regard to the Postal Service's plans "to improve the customer experience in our retail lobbies ... [by] ... removing the bullet resistant glazing at the counter line at certain retail facilities, when a risk analysis supports the removal."

We are troubled by the Postal Service's plans, and believe that there is no justification for removing bulletproof glass at counters of retail facilities where it currently exists. Robberies at USPS retail facilities are not uncommon. In addition, the recent shooting deaths of two postal workers in the Henning, TN Post Office on October 18, 2010 are a stark reminder that security at retail stations needs to be strengthened, not weakened. Removing bulletproof glass at counters in retail facilities makes little sense and is contrary to the Employer's responsibility to provide safe working conditions. It is our understanding that the Henning, TN Post Office did not have bulletproof glass at the counter. It is not known whether bullet-proof glass would have made a difference in that case, but clearly security at stations is an ongoing and serious concern.

Your December 23, 2010 letter also states that, "Upon initial request from Area Retail, the Inspection Service will conduct a risk assessment for these sites to evaluate the existence of current security concerns at the facilities." In addition, you stated this risk assessment generally "includes an analysis of recent crime trends, contact with local law enforcement, practices and experiences of area businesses, a history of crimes at the facility, financial information for the

facility, and prior security reports." However, we believe this risk assessment is more appropriate for determining whether to add bulletproof glass where there currently is none, rather than as a justification for removing bulletproof glass where it currently exists.

Obviously, once bulletproof glass is installed, it serves as a deterrent to a potential robber. For example, if a robber had a choice between breaking into a vehicle that has a burglar alarm or one without, or a post office that has bulletproof glass or one without it, a robber in both cases would choose the car without the alarm and the post office without bulletproof glass. In each case (regardless of how much time has passed) it would be difficult to concede or make a valid assessment that since no one has broken into the vehicle that has the alarm, or robbed the post office that had bulletproof glass, that the alarm system or bulletproof glass is no longer justified or needed and therefore should be removed.

It is the responsibility of the Employer to provide safe working conditions in all present and future post offices. Therefore, the APWU is requesting that the Postal Service not remove any bulletproof glass at any retail facility where it currently exists.

In regard to your December 23rd letter, the APWU is requesting the following information:

1. Reference was made to "Facilities Service Office." What is the responsibility of the "Facilities Service Office" and its location (district, area or national level)? What is the name of the postal official in charge, job title, mailing address and telephone number?

2. Reference was made to "Facilities is working with the Inspection Service on the process for removing the bullet resistant glazing at the counter line at certain retail facilities, when a risk analysis supports the removal." Please provide a list identifying all retail facilities (name, mailing address, finance number, telephone number) where the bullet resistant glazing at the counter lines is being considered for removal.

3. Reference was made to the following: "Upon initial request from Area Retail, the Inspection Service will conduct a risk assessment for these sites to evaluate the existence of current security concerns at the facility." Please provide the names of the postal officials (job title, mailing address, and telephone number) from Area Retail who made or who are responsible for making a request, including the impacted retail facilities (name, mailing address, finance number, and telephone number)?

4. In addition, please provide the names of APWU-represented bargaining unit employees assigned to impacted retail facilities?

5. Please provide a copy of all risk assessments for retail facilities where bullet resistant glazing at the counter lines has been removed or may be considered for removal?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 842-4250. The APWU would like to meet concerning the above-referenced subject matter, and request that such meeting be attended by manager(s) who are knowledge about the Employer's plans for removing resistant glazing at the counter lines of some facilities.

Please note that in the event that the Postal Service decides to reconsider its plans for removing bullet resistant glazing at the counter lines of some retail facilities, or decides not to remove any bulletproof glass at any retail facility where it currently exists, then the above requested information and meeting will not be necessary.

Sincerely,

Greg Bell

Greg Bell
Executive Vice President

cc: Patrick Devine

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opeiu#2, afl-cio