



American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO

1300 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

William Burrus
President
202-842-4246 (Office)

June 4, 2009

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Mr. Dave Williams, Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn Street, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22209

Re: Audit Report – Custodial Maintenance, New York District Report Number DA-AR-09-007

Dear Mr. Williams:

I have been provided a copy of the report referenced above and write to express my strong objection to the use of the Office of the Inspector General to instruct postal management in bargaining demands. This report does not respect the legally required bargaining process: It blatantly urges postal management to seek an end to restrictions in the Collective Bargaining Agreement on custodial subcontracting, and encourages management to arbitrarily adjust cleaning frequencies. This reflects a level of ignorance of the bargaining process, which requires mutual agreement.

The feeble acknowledgement that "the cooperation and agreement of the APWU are needed" nullifies any justification for the conclusions of the report. The creation of a wish list of bargaining demands is a misuse of the services of the Office of Inspector General that could be applied to more productive activities.

That there be no misunderstanding by your office, the American Postal Workers Union looks forward to participating in bargaining and discussing a wide range of proposals to improve efficiencies and reward employees. We fail to understand postal management's refusal in previous negotiations to apply a cost-benefit standard to all decisions on subcontracting. We also fail to comprehend any justification for rate discounts that far exceed the postal costs avoided.

As you may recall, I have made requests for the Office of the Inspector General to conduct a comprehensive investigation into this contractor-friendly practice, which denies the Postal Service revenue far in excess of any savings that could be realized by the use of contract employees to perform custodial activities. You have repeatedly declined this invitation, choosing instead to intrude in the bargaining process.

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I have also inquired about the practice of permitting contractors to use postal property without compensation for the storage of their vehicles. After review, your office responded to my inquiry with a conclusion that such decisions are left to local managers. This and other circumstances reveal that your office is selective in its identification of cost savings.

Despite your misplaced priorities, I look forward to 2010 contract negotiations during which each party will advance proposals favorable to their respective interests. I suspect that you will not be present as that is not within your portfolio of responsibilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Burrus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Burrus" being more prominent.

William Burrus
President

cc: Steve Raymer, Maintenance Director
Bob Pritchard, MVS Director
Negotiations file

WB:RB:hjp//opeiu#2/afl-cio