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Policy Position

03/01/2006

EDC-01. Post Office Relocations and Closings Policy

1.1 Preamble

The local post office is a critical component of the economic and social fabric of communities across America. In many communities, particularly in rural areas, the post office is the economic and social anchor of the downtown area.

The nation's Governors are concerned about the impact on communities of post office closings and relocations occurring across the country, particularly in small towns.

The Governors believe that the United States Postal Service (USPS) should act as a responsible partner with state and local governments and local communities by considering the impact of its actions on the health of downtowns and the American landscape.

As it considers the community impact, USPS must provide for meaningful public input and take into consideration whether the community served by the post office is opposed to the decision. Finally, USPS must provide the opportunity for community members to appeal any decision to the Postal Rate Commission.

1.2 Local Zoning Requirements

USPS has the ability to override local zoning requirements. This exemption from local zoning and building codes has permitted USPS to build new facilities or make changes to existing facilities that conflict with local plans for growth management, traffic management, environmental protection, and public safety.

The nation's Governors believe the United States Postal Service must comply with the same local zoning or building codes that apply to state and local governments.

1.3 Location of Post Offices on Historic Properties

Executive Order 13006, Locating Federal Facilities on Historic Properties in Our Nation's Central Cities, cites the efforts of the federal government to revitalize central cities and "to give first consideration to historic properties within historic districts" when locating federal agencies.

The Governors strongly urge USPS to comply with Executive Order 13006. Such an action would provide a positive statement from the United States Postal Service at a time when the public is concerned about the effects of sprawl on the American landscape and when the economic future of their Main Streets and their sense of community are threatened.

1.4 Conclusion

The nation's Governors are very concerned about the impact on local communities of actions taken by USPS to relocate, renovate, consolidate, or close local post offices. The Governors urge USPS to work in partnership with state and local governments and communities across the country to resolve these problems.

*Time limited (effective Winter Meeting 2006-Winter Meeting 2008).
Adopted Annual Meeting 1997; reaffirmed Annual Meeting 1999 and Annual Meeting 2001; revised Annual Meeting 2003; reaffirmed Winter Meeting 2004 and Winter Meeting 2006.*

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