

RESOLUTION
MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF PRINCETON

WHEREAS, Princeton has been informed that the US Postal Service is considering the sale of the Princeton Post office located in Palmer Square/central business district of the town; and

WHEREAS, the Postal Service is preparing to have this sale utilizing sealed bids within 30 days from the date of the office notice to the community which was August 9, 2013; and

WHEREAS, this sale will impact the community and could make utilizing the US Postal Service less convenient; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of Princeton wish to advise the US Postal Service that should this building be sold that it is in the best interest of the citizens and businesses of Princeton to continue to operate a postal facility within the central business district of the community and that no closure of the current facility take place without locating and opening a new facility within the community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council would urge the US Postal Service to be in contact with the town's professional staff to help guide them on appropriate location for this future facility; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council also want to make it known that the zoning and historic preservation of this structure are of the utmost importance and must be adhered to in any and all proposals of sale and ultimate uses; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council would also request that the US Postal Service continue to provide updates as to the progress of locating a facility as well as the status of any potential sale of the current facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Princeton, New Jersey that the US Postal service is urged to provide appropriate communication with the Mayor and Administrator in regards to any potential sale and future relocation of a post office within the central business district of Princeton; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the zoning, historic nature and preservation of the existing structure must be adhered to in any sale consideration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provide to our Congressman Rush Holt as well as Senator Robert Menendez and Senator Jeffrey Chiesa with a copy to the US Postal Service through their real estate division.

I, Linda S. McDermott, Clerk of Princeton, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at its meeting held August 26, 2013.

Linda S. McDermott, Clerk



August 9th, 2013

Liz Lempert
Mayor of Princeton
400 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

Re: Princeton, NJ Palmer Square Station – Proposed

Honorable Mayor Lempert,

The Postal Service is facing the most critical period in its history. Despite significant cost reductions, the Postal Service continues to experience a net loss. Economic downturn and changes in customer behavior indicate the ongoing migration towards electronic communication; our mail volume continues to decline and is not expected to return to previous peak levels.

As a self-supporting government agency that receives no tax dollars for its operating expenses, the Postal Service must rely on the sale of postage, products and services to generate revenue. In the face of unsustainable deficits the Postal Service must seek ways to cut costs and reduce the size of its infrastructure.

In an effort to control and cut costs, an optimization study was initiated to “right size” our current operation to a smaller building that will continue to provide retail services to the community of Princeton. The new retail operation will be located as close as possible to the current Palmer Square Post Office. The proposed new retail facility will offer the community with an upgraded, modern facility that will provide the level of service expected by our customers. The current building will be placed on the market for sale.

This is a follow up to the announcement and solicitation for comments by the Postal Service at the public Princeton Council meeting held on December 13th, 2011, regarding the proposed plan to sell the Princeton Palmer Square Post Office and replace it with a new retail facility. In accordance with postal regulations, we will keep your office and the community advised as we move forward on the new Postal facilities project.

After further assessment and input from community members, the Postal Service has made an initial decision to proceed with its new facilities project. In the near future, we will be reviewing potential sites for the new post office.

Your office or any member of the community may appeal or comment on this decision within the next 30 days. Your letter should be directed to Vice President, Facilities, and addressed to my attention at the address shown below. A response will be provided within 15 days.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns at the address listed below.

Richard Hancock, Real Estate Specialist
USPS Eastern Facilities Service Office
PO Box 27497 Greensboro, NC 27498-1103
Phone: (336) 665-2848
richard.a.hancock@usps.gov

Sincerely,



Richard Hancock

RECEIVED
AUG 12 2013

BY:

Princeton University

Office of Community and Regional Affairs
22 Chambers Street, Suite 101
Princeton, New Jersey 08542
Tel 609.258.3204 Fax 609.258.9000

Kristin S. Appelget, *Director*
Community and Regional Affairs

Karen M. Woodbridge, *Director*
Community Relations

August 8, 2013

Mr. Dallan C. Wordekemper, CCIM
Federal Preservation Officer
Real Estate Specialist
United States Postal Service
475 l'Enfant Plaza, SW
Suite 6670
Washington, DC 20260-1862

Re: Proposed sale of Princeton-Palmer Square Post Office Building, Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Wordekemper;

I am writing to you on behalf of Princeton University regarding the proposed sale of the current United States Post Office Building located at 20 Palmer Square East in Princeton, New Jersey.

The location of the U.S. Post Office at the current location is a short walk from the main campus of Princeton University, and it is a convenient resource for our faculty, staff and students. Princeton University has more than 6,000 employees and nearly 8,000 students.

Currently three University departments maintain post office boxes at the 20 Palmer Square East location. This is a busy location that attracts patrons from across the University campus for certified and registered mail, passport photos, and shipping services. The University does not provide shipping services to students on our campus, and instead they are directed to the post office location or the UPS Store on Witherspoon Street.

The current post office location provides an important service to our campus community, and it is in a location that is easy to locate. We were pleased to hear that the U.S. Postal Service is committed to maintaining a postal service location in the Princeton central business district despite the intention to sell the current post office building. Relocating the post office outside of

walking distance to the campus would significantly diminish access to the postal services for our students.

The central business district in Princeton as we know it today has developed over decades, and local officials have worked to maintain a careful balance of civic, cultural, business, and residential uses that are consistent with a vibrant urban core. In the downtown there are municipal offices, a public library, an arts council, the YMCA and YWCA, churches, municipal offices, and the post office.

We understand that others here in Princeton have suggested that, as a condition of the sale of the current post office property, the U.S Postal Service commit to maintain the scaled-back operation that will be maintained in downtown Princeton in some part of the current, iconic post office building. We think that this suggestion makes good sense, and we hope that you and your colleagues will give this proposal serious consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kristin S. Appelget". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristin S. Appelget

Director

Community and Regional Affairs

Cc: Mayor Liz Lempert, Municipality of Princeton
Christine Lewandowski, Municipality of Princeton
Megan MacWilliams Barratta, NJ State Historic Preservation Office
Julie Capozzoli, Chair, Princeton Historic Preservation Commission
David Newton, Palmer Square Management