

Neighbors,

The Montpelier Commission on Recovery and Resilience (MCRR) has sent the following letter to United States Postal Service District Manager, Scott Manier. We encourage you to also reach out to Mr. Mainer to express your concerns about USPS retail services in downtown Montpelier.

rscott.manier@usps.gov

You can find more information about how to advocate for our post office here:

<https://www.prc.gov/>

<https://ptvermont.org/a-local-officials-guide-to-developing-better-community-post-offices/>

The Commission will report back on any response we receive from Mr. Manier and/or other USPS officials.

Montpelier Commission on Recovery and Resilience
90 Main Street, Suite 304
Montpelier VT, 05602

November 17, 2023

Scott Manier
District Manager
ME-NH-VT
151 Forest Ave.
Portland, ME 04101
rscott.manier@usps.gov

Dear Mr. Manier,

On behalf of the Montpelier Commission on Recovery and Resilience, I'm writing today to express our concerns regarding the fate of the Post Office in Montpelier, Vermont. Due to your office's lack of communication and community engagement, there is significant confusion, anxiety, and uncertainty in Montpelier about USPS service. Residents are unsure of where retail postal services are offered and when retail postal services will return downtown.

As you know, under CFR 39 Section 241.4 (c), when the Postal Service makes a tentative decision to relocate all retail services from a retail service facility to a separate physical building, it is required to:

- (1) Identify the community and engage local elected officials.
- (2) Notify the community.
- (3) Solicit comments from the community.

While CFR 39 241.4 does contain provisions for the temporary relocation of retail services without community engagement during times of natural disaster, not later than 180 days after a provisional relocation, the Postal Service is required to make a tentative decision to remain in the provisional relocation site on a long-term basis or to relocate to another site. After that decision, the Postal Service must follow the process in CFR 39 241.4 (c) with respect to collecting and considering community input on a proposal to implement that decision. It has now been 130 days since the Montpelier post office, located at 87 State Street, was shuttered. Local officials and community members continue to await news of the Postal Service's proposal.

The Montpelier Commission on Recovery and Resilience is a public/private partnership that was formed in response to the July flood. The Commission provides leadership to coordinate recovery and resilience strategies, advocate for the community, and support the progress of recovery initiatives throughout Montpelier. As such, the post office is a significant concern for the Commission. On November 7, members of the Commission and the Montpelier City Manager met with representatives from the offices of Senator Sanders, Senator Welch, and Congresswoman Balint. They share our concerns, and I've CC'd them on this letter.

We respectfully ask that you follow the process outlined in statute and engage the community about the siting of postal services in Montpelier. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you or members of your staff to identify available and accessible locations for retail postal services in downtown Montpelier, of which there are many. Finally, we ask that you respond in writing to this request within the next 10 days with an update on current plans.

We appreciate your efforts to correct the unacceptable level of customer service that is currently being provided to Montpelier residents.

Sincerely,

Ben Doyle, Chair

CC: Bill Fraser, City Manager, Montpelier

Jack McCullough, Mayor, Montpelier

Rebecca Ellis, State Director, Office of Senator Welch

James McNerney, Constituent Service Representative, Office of Senator Welch

Haley Pero, Outreach Director, Office of Senator Sanders

David Scherr, State Director, Office of Congresswoman Balint

Paul Carnahan, Montpelier Commission on Recovery and Resilience

Katie Trautz, Montpelier Commission on Recovery and Resilience

Pat Moulton, Central Vermont Recovery Officer

Paul Hughes, Public Affairs Officer, General Service Administration