

DISTRICT MANAGER  
MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT



November 6, 2017

Mr. Shelton Vance, CPA  
Madison County Board of Supervisors  
125 West North Street  
Post Office Box 608  
Canton, Mississippi 39046

RE: Mode of Mail Delivery

Dear Mr. Vance:

Thank you for your October 25, 2017, letter wherein you raised cost and safety concerns on behalf of the Madison County Board of Supervisors (MCBS), regarding the implementation of central delivery in new residential and commercial developments.

The United States Postal Service is proud to continue its vital role in today's changing mail environment. That role includes the responsibility for establishing the method or mode of delivery, the type of mailbox, and location of the mailbox for each street delivery address. Centralized delivery, through the use of Cluster Box Units (CBUs), is our preferred delivery method and box type. These CBU boxes have the advantage of being "package friendly," in that they are designed to accommodate the majority of packages delivered through the U. S. mail.

Online ordering of merchandise has dramatically increased package volume. Many residential delivery mailboxes in use today are designed on the basis of specifications implemented nearly a century ago and are too small to accommodate contemporary parcel volume. As a result, packages delivered by our carriers often cannot fit into residential mail receptacles and must be redelivered, retrieved at a post office, or left on adjacent doorsteps, thereby leaving the packages susceptible to weather damage. Centralized delivery minimizes these risks.

The Postal Service is directed by statute to provide reliable and efficient service. Centralized Delivery fulfills our responsibility to safe, efficient delivery for both the customer and the Postal Service as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Postal Operations Manual (POM) section 631.2 reflects the guidelines used by local postal managers in determining the mode through which such delivery is to be provided, including type of equipment and location of boxes.

We appreciate the concerns that you raised regarding the costs of implementing central delivery in new residential and business developments. However, the costs associated with planning for central delivery are within the standard costs developers and builders

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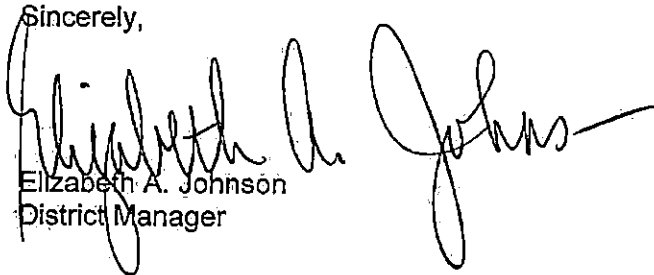
incur on each new project when complying with the county and municipal codes, ordinances and regulations associated with providing the easements necessary for the construction of streets, sidewalks, right-of-ways and the installation of gas, water, electric and fiber optic lines. Likewise, developers and builders nationwide have successfully planned and installed CBU's in small and large developments that have complied with the established codes for providing proper access for the disabled, and they have also designed their new homes with visible street numbers to alert first responders to emergency calls. Please note that individual postal customers with serious disabilities have the option under postal regulations to apply to their local postmaster for an alternative mode of delivery.

We have a successful track record nationwide of working with counties, municipalities, developers and builders when implementing central delivery in the early stages of the planning and development of new residential and commercial developments.

Our Delivery Team is available to make a presentation to the MCBS outlining the steps that we are taking throughout Mississippi and nationwide to ensure the continued successful implementation of central delivery. We are also available to meet with developers and builders to outline our program. At your convenience, please contact Dana Amos at 601-351-7300 to schedule the Delivery Team's presentation.

We value your input and we look forward to working with you and the MCBS to continue meeting our customers' developing needs.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Johnson  
District Manager