

19  
12-13-11

EXHIBIT NO. 1



# Postal Service lists 3,700 branches for possible closing

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service has released a list of thousands of post offices being studied for possible closing to save money.



Alex Brandon, APA United States Post Office in Philadelphia that predates the American colonies is on the Postal Service's list of branches that

could close. Enlarge

Alex Brandon, AP

A United States Post Office in Philadelphia that predates the American colonies is on the Postal Service's list of branches that could close.

The Postal Service is looking at about 3,700 post offices with low sales and few customers for possible elimination as early as January, Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said Tuesday. Most of those under review take in less than \$27,500 a year and have only enough customers and mail to keep them busy two hours a day, Donahoe said.

The Postal Service will spend at least four

months evaluating each post office. Anyone who objects to a closing has 60 days to submit comments to the Postal Service.

Proposals to close any of its estimated 31,000 post offices often meet strong resistance from communities and their representatives in Congress. In January, the Postal Service named 1,400 post offices it wanted to close; 280 are gone.

**MORE:** State by state list  
Democratic Sen. Tom Carper of Delaware, who chairs the subcommittee that oversees the Postal Service, called closings a "difficult but necessary step" to save the Postal Service from collapse.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said the plan would hurt rural communities without solving the Postal Service's money problem.

"The fact is, maintaining our nation's rural post offices costs the Postal Service less than 1 percent of its total budget and is not the cause of its financial crisis," she said. "While there are some areas where postal services could be consolidated or moved

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into a nearby retail store to ensure continued access, this simply is not an option in many rural and remote areas."

As it closes branches, the Postal Service plans to set up what it calls "village post offices" in supermarkets and gas stations to provide basic services such as stamps and flat-rate package shipping.

The Postal Service has cut 110,000 jobs and reduced costs by \$11 billion since 2008 to offset a sharp drop in mail as people do more business online. Still, the Postal Service projects a deficit this year of \$8.3 billion.

First-class mail, one of the largest revenue sources, declined from 103.7 billion pieces in 2001 to 78.2 billion pieces in 2010.

Collins has proposed a bill she says would ease the Postal Service's budget deficit by reforming workers' compensation and contracting requirements and letting the postmaster tap "an enormous overpayment" into retirement funds.

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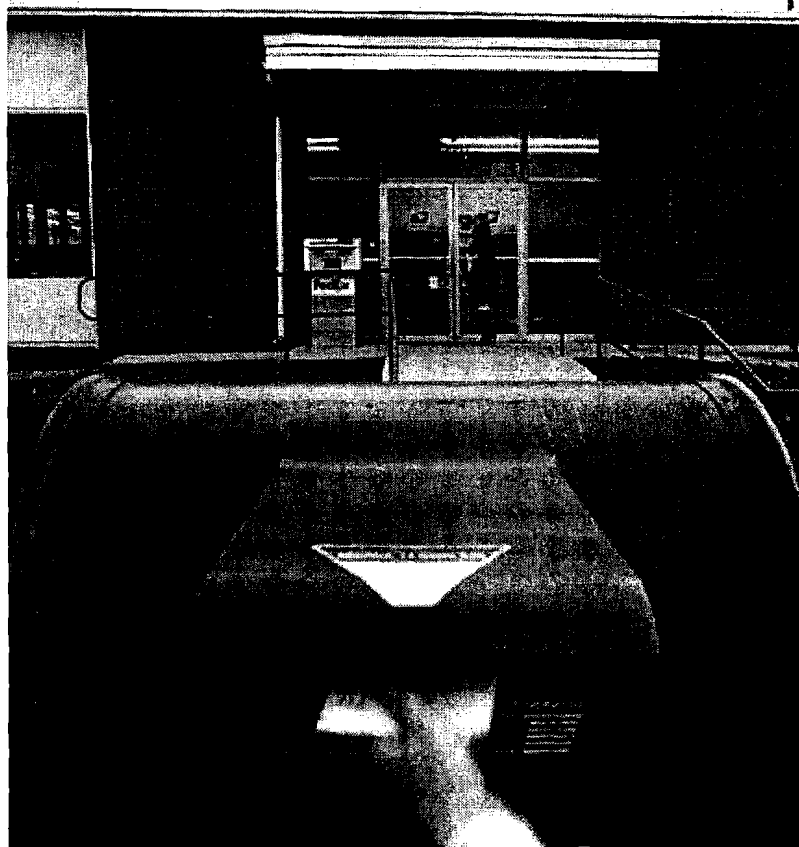
# Richmond Times-Dispatch

Published: December 06, 2011

[Home](#) / [business](#) / [local](#) /

## Va. mail centers could close under USPS plan

By John Reid Blackwell



The U.S Postal Service's plan to cut \$3 billion in expenses could include consolidating several mail-processing centers in Virginia.

Under a plan that has drawn criticism from unions representing postal workers, the Postal Service is seeking permission from federal regulators to close 252 of its 461 mail-processing centers nationwide and slow its first-class delivery next spring to reduce costs as mail volume declines.

In September, the Postal Service released a list of processing centers it was considering closing, including centers in Roanoke, Lynchburg and Norfolk.

The Norfolk center would be consolidated into the Richmond center, while the centers in Roanoke and Lynchburg would be consolidated with one in Greensboro, N.C., according to the Postal Service announcement.

On Monday, the cash-strapped Postal Service said it is seeking to move quickly to close the 252 mail-processing centers, starting in April.

The closures would eliminate about 28,000 jobs nationwide. The cuts are part of \$3 billion in cuts aimed at helping the agency avert bankruptcy next year.

At a news briefing, Postal Service Vice President David Williams stressed the move was necessary to cut costs as more people turn to the Internet for email and for bill payment. The Postal Service projects that the volume of first-class mail will drop by roughly half by 2020.

The change in first-class mail delivery would virtually eliminate the chance for stamped letters to arrive the next day, a change in first-class delivery standards that have been in place since 1971.

"Are we writing off first-class mail? No," Williams said. "Customers are making their choices, and what we are doing is responding to the current market conditions and placing the Postal Service on a path to allow us to respond to future changes."

Spokesmen for two unions representing postal workers criticized the plan, saying it would undercut service and drive more people away from using mail.

"We disapprove of the whole plan," said Sally Davidow, a spokeswoman for the American Postal Workers Union. "We think it is precisely the wrong way for the Postal Service to go. It will make the mail less meaningful and less relevant in the digital age instead of making it more meaningful and relevant."

A spokesman for the National Association of Letter Carriers said that the Postal Service has actually had a net operating profit of \$611 million in the four fiscal years after 2007.

But the service, which does not receive taxpayer dollars for operating costs, has reported billions of dollars in financial losses because of a 2006 congressional mandate that the service must pre-fund its retiree health benefits for the next 75 years within a decade.

The Postal Service is facing default this month on a \$5.5 billion annual payment to the Treasury for retiree health benefits. It is projected to have a record loss of \$14.1 billion next year. The Postal Service has said it must make cuts of \$20 billion by 2015 to be profitable.

19  
12-13-11

**Jackie Henderson**

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**From:** Bea Porter <beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 12, 2011 2:47 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: post office closures  
**Attachments:** ATT00002.txt

**COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members**

**Time:** [Mon Dec 12, 2011 14:47:07] **Message ID:** [35334]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Bea

**Last Name:** Porter

**Street Address:** 1727 Cameron Street

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 571-226-0326

**Email Address:** [beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com](mailto:beatrice.a.d.porter-gruel@saic.com)

**Subject:** post office closures

I just saw an article from the Del Ray Patch that stated the City is

looking to close two post offices in the City. I will not be able to

attend your City Council meeting Tuesday evening as I have another meeting

I need to attend. I would like to comment, the Potomac Station Post Office

in Del Ray may be essential to the people that live in Del Ray, but parking

is not convenient, as where the Post Office on Wythe Street has parking

available and is very convenient to all that use it. As postal services

**Comments:** are getting cut back, it is very important that citizens have access to the

postal services, we should not have to travel miles and miles to mail

packages or retrieve packages from the postal system. During the holidays

it is very important to have services available due to theft of packages

left at homes or even outside offices. And, don't forget how many people

line up at tax time. Its not just about going and buying stamps, the post

offices provide a number of services we can not get elsewhere. When making

your decisions, please keep in mind that a lot of people use these post

offices, and a lot of people will be angered over the loss of either  
station. Bea Porter

19  
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12-13-11



10/25/2011

MR & MRS GRANT REDMON  
TALL OAKS, SEMINARY PO  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for returning your questionnaire concerning the proposed discontinuance of the Theological Seminary Station. Your comments, along with others received, will be included in the official record and considered carefully before further action is taken.

In response to your letter:

- You stated that you would miss the special attention and assistance provided by the personnel at the Post Office. Courteous and helpful service will be provided by personnel at the administrative Post Office and from the carrier. Special assistance will be provided as needed.
- You questioned the savings of discontinuing the Theological Seminary Station. The ten year net present value shows a savings of \$654,123 by the reduction of salary and benefits.
- You expressed concern about the expense for reprinting stationery and notifying correspondents of your new address. Customers may exhaust their existing supplies of stationery as an alternative to avoid the added cost and expense of reprinting. Correspondents could be notified during your normal contact with them therefore not incurring additional cost. The Postal Service will forward First Class mail for a period of one year.
- You expressed concerned about having to travel to another post office for service. Many transactions are now being conducted in other locations other than the traditional brick and mortar post offices which do not require a special trip to obtain service. The postal service provides alternate services such as: • Stamps by Mail is a free service provided by preparing an order form available from the letter carrier of local post office • Stamps by Phone are available for credit card users by dialing 1-800-STAMP-24, anytime day or night. • Stamps are available at many grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and large businesses such as Costco and Office Depot. Free carrier pickup is available from your carrier for packages when your regular mail is delivered. This service is available for Express Mail®, Priority Mail®, International services, Merchandise Return Service and Parcel Return Service. You can use [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) to schedule a pick up. Discounts are available for your packages by using the Click and Ship option in [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dennis Voorhees at (540) 667-3352.

Sincerely,

THOMAS O'NEILL  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
8409 Lee Highway  
Merrifield, VA, 22081-9998

REDMON, PEYTON & BRASWELL, L.L.P.

510 KING STREET, SUITE 301  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

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TELEPHONE (703) 684-2000  
FACSIMILE (703) 684-5109

Gant Redmon  
gredmon@rpb-law.com

October 27, 2011

Mr. Dennis Voorhees  
Regional Manager  
United States Postal Service  
8409 Lee Highway  
Merrifield, VA 22081-9998

Re: Proposed closing of Seminary Post Office

Dear Mr. Voorhees:

I am taking this opportunity to comment and rebut statements made in Thomas O'Neill's letter to my wife and me dated October 25, 2011, as invited in the last paragraph of his letter, a copy of which is enclosed for your ready reference.

I have found in over 50 years of law practice and business experience that an organization is only as good as the person who deals with the customer. Mr. O'Neill's first point is not well taken. There is no way that personnel in an "administrative Post Office" can be expected to give the personal service that otherwise is available from the existing facility. Further, I seriously doubt that any carrier will be expected to deliver mail to our home; rather it will be at the end of our driveway, which is directly across the street from the existing Post Office. Further, many students at the Seminary, primarily the ones from foreign countries, do not have transportation and cannot access the alternate facilities referenced in Mr. O'Neill's letter. That is why the Seminary makes the facility available at no cost to USPS.

The most serious statement with which I take exception is his second point: that over a ten year period "net present value shows a saving of \$654,123..." That statement totally ignores the fact that the U.S. Post Office will be losing net profits during that period (exclusive of any allocated or administrative costs) of over \$1.68 million. I should think that management would be concerned with the "Bottom Line."

Mr. O'Neill's final point with respect to the availability of postal services from alternate sources, including the internet, does recognize the realities of our changing economy; however, those alternate sources often are very difficult for senior citizens to access. A convenient,

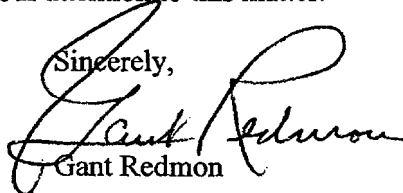


understandable point of contact means more to seniors than to the rest of our population, especially the younger folks who are much more accustomed to the use of the internet.

We of Seminary Hill, which encompasses more than 2,000 single family homes as well as the Virginia Theological Seminary, sincerely hope and trust that the initial decision to close the Seminary Post Office based solely upon the level of gross revenue will be reversed and that the facility will be allowed to continue to operate with adequate support by USPS in the way of availability of stamps and other supplies than has been the case in the past. Such support undoubtedly will increase revenues at the facility, which I would suppose is one of your objectives, in addition to providing services to the consuming public.

As you could see from the comments at the hearing over which you presided at St. Stephens and St. Agnes School, , there is strong feeling in the community for the identity of the area and even stronger support for the Seminary Post Office.

Thank you for listening and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Gant Redmon

P.S. We understood at the meeting, in response to a direct question, that the notes being taken by your staff or a summary of the meeting at SSSAS would be posted in the Seminary Post Office; I am advised that as of yesterday, there was no such posting. Could you advise as to when that might occur?

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James P. Moran  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Mr. Thomas O'Neill  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
The Rev. Ian S. Markham, Dean  
Virginia Theological Seminary  
Ms. Nancy Jennings, President  
Seminary Hill Association, Inc.



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 Partly Cloudy  
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## Local News

# Old school Alexandria post office on chopping block

Like

Wednesday - 7/27/2011, 4:12pm ET

Meera Pal, wtop.com

WASHINGTON - It's a little like stepping back in time when you open the bright red door to the Theological Seminary Post Office in Alexandria.

Beyond the pre-Civil-War-era building, there's a sense of community inside the little white house on the hill.

Post office patrons walk in and greet the Postmistress by her first name, "Hi, Terri!" A well-worn bulletin board showcases the latest postal rates, along with yellowed newspaper clippings, several cards for local businesses and a 4x6 note card selling bedroom furniture.

Word that the United States Postal Service is considering closing 3,600 offices, branches and stations across the country – including the Seminary Post Office – spread quickly in the neighborhood.

One local resident who gave her name as Mrs. Redmon says the closure would have a big impact on her. Redmon, who has lived in the neighborhood for 37 years, receives her daily mail at the



The Seminary Post Office is on the USPS list of potential closures. (WTOP/Meera Pal)

**Gallery:** (2 images)

Seminary Post Office and knows the postmistress well. She notes that the current postmistress, Terri, travels all the way from Waldorf, Md.

Redmon says she does not have e-mail or a cell phone, and typically spends about \$50 a week on postage. She already has pre-printed her Christmas cards with the Seminary post office's address.

"If they wanted to take away Saturday, take away Saturday," she says. "Don't take away the Seminary Post Office."



The Seminary Post Office sits on the campus of the Theological Seminary, which owns the building. They allow the postal service to operate out of the site.

The post office announced Tuesday that in light of the increasing number of postal customers who conduct business online, on their smartphones and elsewhere, the organization is studying about 3,700 retail offices "to determine customers needs."

There are 19 post office locations being considered for closure in the District of Columbia, about 40 in Maryland, and roughly 90 in Virginia.

"Just because they are on the list doesn't necessarily mean they are closing," says Dennis Voorhees, manager of post office operations for Northern Virginia and post office review coordinator.

Voorhees will be conducting studies of the post offices on the list, looking at potential savings to the postal service, the impact it could have on the surrounding community, and whether there are alternative postal service sites for residents.

The next closest post office for Seminary Hill residents is in the Bradlee Shopping Center on King Street, about 2 miles away. But, Redmon says "You'd have to find a legal parking spot first."

With more and more customers forgoing "snail mail" for e-mail and other forms of communication, the postal service lost \$8 billion last year. The post office relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. It receives no tax dollars for operating expenses.

"Thirty-five percent of our retail revenue now comes from these alternate access locations," he says. "Our habits of our customers are changing ... Our foot traffic is declining."

Alternate access locations include grocery stores, drug stores, office supply stores and self-service kiosks and ATMs.

Voorhees says that customer visits to post office locations across the country have declined 200 million in the last five years. The postal service operates nearly 32,000 retail offices across the country, which is down from 38,000 from ten years ago.

In addition to considering post office closures, the postal service has also asked Congress to cut back mail delivery service to five days a week and ease the schedule for funding retiree health benefits.

Most of the post offices that are under review for closure are in rural, less populated areas, including the Seminary Post Office, which is located on the campus of the Virginia Theological Seminary. The school, founded in 1823, currently has 232 students enrolled. The post office serves the students and staff at the college, as well as the residents of Seminary Hill.

"If it closes, it's going to have a big impact because it's our school post office," says Heather Zdancewicz vice president for administration and finance for the college.

MANAGER, POST OFFICE OPERATIONS  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT



November 25, 2011

Gant Redmon  
510 King St, Suite 301  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Redmon:

This is in response to your letter addressed dated October 27, 2011 concerning the proposed discontinuance of Seminary Post Office.

The U.S. Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products, and services to fund its operations. Over the past five years our customers' needs have changed dramatically – mail volume has declined by 43.1 billion pieces, customer visits have decreased by 200 million, and retail transactions have diminished by \$2 billion. In addition, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales are now conducted in expanded access locations outside of traditional Post Offices. In spite of this, the Postal Service has an extensive retail network of nearly 32,000 Post Offices, Stations and branches that has been virtually untouched. In light of that, we have a fiscal responsibility to our customers — and our country — to explore all reasonable options for reducing our costs and infrastructure. Accordingly, the Postal Service is currently evaluating its retail network to ensure it is correctly aligned to reflect changes in mail volume and customer demand.

Your rebuttal of the information provided by Mr. O'Neil in his response is duly noted and will be included in the Official Record. As for your inquiry about the posting of the comments from the Community Meeting, a recap of the comments and concerns will be included in the official record and made available for public inspection if it is decided to proceed with the discontinue of the Seminary Branch.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If I may be of further assistance in this or any other postal related matter, please do not hesitate to call me at 540-667-3352.

Respectfully,

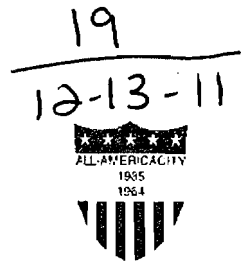
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis E. Voorhees".

Dennis E. Voorhees

P.O. BOX 3603  
WINCHESTER VA 22604-2593  
540 667-3352  
FAX: 540 662-8130



*City of Alexandria, Virginia*  
301 King Street, Suite 2300  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



*William D. Guille*  
*Mayor*

December 22, 2011

*City Hall: (703) 838-4500*  
*Home: (703) 836-2680*  
*Fax: (703) 838-6433*  
*alexvamayor@aol.com*

Mr. Patrick R. Donahoe  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Donahoe;

I am writing to express the concerns of the Alexandria City Council with respect to the proposed closure of two branch post offices in the City of Alexandria, Virginia. The post offices proposed for closure are the Theological Seminary (22304) and the Potomac Station (22301) branches.

The Theological Seminary Branch has been an active post office since the time of the Civil War. It serves students at the Seminary, as well as residents of the surrounding neighborhood. It is my understanding that the Seminary provides the building that is used for this branch at no cost to the United States Postal Service. This branch is known for its service and efficiency. In addition, it is especially helpful to those Seminary students who do not have automobiles.

The Potomac Station Branch predates the incorporation of the Del Ray area (where it is located) into the City of Alexandria—its name is derived from the now defunct Town of Potomac, where it was originally located. The Del Ray neighborhood, and in particular Mount Vernon Avenue, its main street, has become an important area for small businesses in recent years. Closing the Potomac branch would be harmful to these businesses as well the nearby residents. Residents throughout the City already experience lengthy waits at all the post office branches within Alexandria. Closing the Theological Seminary and Potomac Station branches will surely exacerbate this problem.

I realize that the Postal Service faces an extremely difficult budget, but I also believe that other measures under consideration could be taken to address your financial problems. Ending Saturday mail delivery, for instance, should not cause major problems to those sending or receiving mail. Raising the price of postage—which is already one of the best bargains around—would be reasonable. And I have read in the last few days that Congress is amenable to delaying the prepayment of some of the retiree health care costs that are so expensive.


In summary, I ask that you please consider options other than the closure of much-used branch offices to solve the Postal Service's financial problems. I have also attached correspondence

*"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"*

Mr. Patrick R. Donohoe  
December 22, 2011  
Page 2

from some Alexandria residents to demonstrate the loss they would feel with the closure of either of these facilities, as well as responses that have been given by postal officials.

Sincerely yours,



William D. Euille  
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Members of City Council  
The Honorable James Moran  
The Honorable Mark Warner  
The Honorable Jim Webb  
Dennis E. Voorhees

12 December 2011

Post Office Review Coordinator  
P.O. Box 3603  
Winchester, Va. 22604

Gentlemen;

I am communicating my concern for the designated closing of the Potomac Station post office located at 1908 Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria.

I oppose this closing.

I was one of the 20 people that appeared at your public meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> regarding the closing. The process you have been undertaking is flawed. Notification for the meeting for businesses as well residents was inadequate. Notice was not given to all affected and as a result there was poor attendance.

The points I made at the meeting are still valid and which I wish to repeat here.

- 1) The Mount Vernon Avenue is a thriving business community central to the Del Ray neighborhood and there is an economy benefit as the post office brings people to the Avenue its businesses and restaurants.
- 2) Del Ray is a walkable community and many users walk to the post office.
- 3) Closing this post office will require many to drive to the Wythe street post office resulting in an increase in energy consumption and pollution. This will also be a disservice to many seniors who make up the Del Ray community.
- 4) The Wythe post office currently can't handle the number of people during many peak hours resulting in long lines and lost time and thus productivity.
- 5) Construction in Potomac Yard to the east will result in many new customers in need of postal services with Howell Avenue offering a direct route for these customers.
- 6) I use the Potomac Station post office daily and maintain a mail box there as do many others. Closing this station will require me to rent a

mail box and will require me to drive every day to Wythe Street which will be a great inconvenience.

7) Your criteria of \$600,000 in revenue is flawed in that there are many circumstance contributing to the lost revenue such closing the post office during the lunch hour, reducing hours, etc. Records indicate that the station exceeded the threshold previously even with the increase in the Internet. Your study ought to look at what caused the loss.

8) The Potomac Station acts in concert with other development endeavors to create a business community.

9) You stated purpose of the study is to "evaluate the facility's operations in a continuing effort to **improve productivity (not ours); increase efficiency (not ours), and cut costs (not ours).**"

10) Closing the post office would be taking away a fundamental and historic component of the community.

11) The postal service closed the Arlandria post office a decade ago and the Potomac Station serves that community also. Thus the distance from the Potomac Station to the Wythe Street post office when coupled with the distance from Arlandria is discriminating.

I support closing the Saturday hours however doing so will reduce the revenue and will be self-defeating.

I would appreciate your re-thinking the closure and look at other creative ways to generate revenue.

Sincerley,

Marlin G. Lord AIA  
Architect on the Avenue



Testimony of Mr. Gant Redmon on Proposed USPS Closures, Alexandria City Council  
December 17, 2011

Mr. Redmon said he has submitted information to the Postal Service authorities. He said the decision by the Postal Service has been put off until May of next year, but it is important. He said Congress has the power to provide the funding and the guidelines for a profitable operation. He added that the Theological Seminary branch has the profit, (a 60 percent operating profit) and that USPS should not disregard that fact. He added that this branch services a great area of the West End.

In summary, Mr. Redmon said:

1. Congress has the power to provide the funding and guidelines for a profitable operation
2. Seminary Post Office has a 60% operating profit
3. It provides services to the Seminary and a great area of the West End.

MANAGER, POST OFFICE OPERATIONS  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA DISTRICT



November 25, 2011

Gant Redmon  
510 King St, Suite 301  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Redmon:

This is in response to your letter addressed dated October 27, 2011 concerning the proposed discontinuance of Seminary Post Office.

The U.S. Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses, and relies on the sale of postage, products, and services to fund its operations. Over the past five years our customers' needs have changed dramatically – mail volume has declined by 43.1 billion pieces, customer visits have decreased by 200 million, and retail transactions have diminished by \$2 billion. In addition, more than 35 percent of the Postal Service's retail sales are now conducted in expanded access locations outside of traditional Post Offices. In spite of this, the Postal Service has an extensive retail network of nearly 32,000 Post Offices, Stations and branches that has been virtually untouched. In light of that, we have a fiscal responsibility to our customers — and our country — to explore all reasonable options for reducing our costs and infrastructure. Accordingly, the Postal Service is currently evaluating its retail network to ensure it is correctly aligned to reflect changes in mail volume and customer demand.

Your rebuttal of the information provided by Mr. O'Neil in his response is duly noted and will be included in the Official Record. As for your inquiry about the posting of the comments from the Community Meeting, a recap of the comments and concerns will be included in the official record and made available for public inspection if it is decided to proceed with the discontinuance of the Seminary Branch.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If I may be of further assistance in this or any other postal related matter, please do not hesitate to call me at 540-667-3352.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis E. Voorhees".

Dennis E. Voorhees  
P.O. BOX 3603  
WINCHESTER VA 22604-2603  
540 667-3352  
FAX 640 662-8130



11/15/2011

CAROLYN GRIGLIONE  
1416 N IVANHOE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA VA 22304

Dear Postal Service Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments to the proposal to close the Theological Seminary Station. Your comments are appreciated and will be carefully considered, along with the comments of other customers, as the matter is reviewed further in my office and at higher levels of the Postal Service.

In response to your letter:

- You stated the post office was located in a historical location. If it is decided to discontinue the Theological Seminary Station, it will not affect the historical significance of the building.
- You expressed concern about having to travel to another post office for service. Many transactions are now being conducted in other locations other than the traditional brick and mortar post offices which do not require a special trip to obtain service. The postal service provides alternate services such as: • Stamps by Mail is a free service provided by preparing an order form available from the letter carrier of local post office • Stamps by Phone are available for credit card users by dialing 1-800-STAMP-24, anytime day or night. • Stamps are available at many grocery stores, pharmacies, banks and large businesses such as Costco and Office Depot. Free carrier pickup is available from your carrier for packages when your regular mail is delivered. This service is available for Express Mail®, Priority Mail®, International services, Merchandise Return Service and Parcel Return Service. You can use [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) to schedule a pick up. Discounts are available for your packages by using the Click and Ship option in [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).
- You stated that you would miss the special attention and assistance provided by the personnel at the Post Office. Courteous and helpful service will be provided by personnel at the administrative Post Office and from the carrier. Special assistance will be provided as needed.
- You felt we should raise the price of postage instead of closing the office. The Postal Service is requesting a price increase but it will not be enough to cover our deficits. We must pursue cost cutting measures across the board.

I realize with change there is always concern. However we are confident that the alternate service listed in the proposal will continue to provide you with effective and regular service.

If you have additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dennis Voorhees at (540) 667-3352.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'O'.

Thomas O'Neill  
Manager, Post Office Operations  
8409 Lee Highway  
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