



Igor Tregub, Councilmember District 4

Adena Ishii, Mayor

Cecilia Lunaparra, Councilmember District 7

REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2

Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

Item Number: 22

Item Description: [Resolution-Letter](#) Opposing the Removal of Public Mailboxes From Berkeley Branches of the United States Postal Service (USPS) [Mailboxes at the Berkeley Main Post Office](#)

Submitted by: Councilmembers Igor Tregub (Author), [Mayor Adena Ishii \(Co-Sponsor\)](#), and Cecilia Lunaparra (Co-Sponsor)

Summary of Changes:

- Updates to reflect that removal of mailboxes and/or apparent other services took place throughout other Berkeley USPS branches
- Updates to reflect that one mailbox was restored at the Downtown USPS location
- Mayor Ishii added as a cosponsor
- Resolution replaced with letter to intended recipients
- U.S. Senators Padilla and Schiff added as intended recipients
- The need for transparent communication by the USPS with the Berkeley community when any and all reductions in USPS services are being contemplated was added as a demand in the draft letter



Igor Tregub, Councilmember District 4

Adena Ishii, Mayor

Cecilia Lunaparra, Councilmember District 7

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Igor Tregub (Author), [Mayor Adena Ishii \(Co-Sponsor\)](#), and Cecilia Lunaparra (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: [Resolution Letter](#) Opposing the Removal of [Public Mailboxes From Berkeley Branches of the United States Postal Service \(USPS\) Mailboxes at the Berkeley Main Post Office](#)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a [Resolution statement reflected in the attached Letter](#) opposing the removal of public mailboxes from ~~the Berkeley~~ [branches of the United States Postal Service Main Post Offices on Allston Way](#) and urging immediate engagement with United States Postal Service (USPS) leadership to restore these essential public services [and demand transparent communications with the Berkeley community prior to contemplating any and all reductions to USPS services; and send/transmit the Resolution](#) ~~the~~ [letter](#) to the attention [of the Postmaster representing the City of Berkeley, the Postmaster General, U.S. Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff, and Congresswoman Lateefah Simon \(CD-12\),](#)

~~of US Congresswoman Lateefah Simon and US Postmaster.~~

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The [United States Postal Service \(USPS\)](#) ~~has~~ recently removed public mailboxes from the Berkeley Main Post Office, located on Allston Way, a landmark civic institution that serves thousands of residents, small businesses, and community organizations.

Several District 4 constituents have reached out to our District 4 office with concerns over the sudden and unexplained removal of mailboxes from in front of Berkeley's Main Post Office. Residents who have long relied on these services for their daily needs have expressed not only confusion and frustration, but also a growing sense of alarm, as no public notice or explanation was provided. One constituent described the unsettling experience of arriving to mail letters, only to find the familiar exterior boxes gone with a postal worker confirming the change. Across these messages, a consistent and troubling theme has emerged: a deep sense of dismay, a loss of trust, and a call for greater transparency and accountability in decisions that directly impact the community's everyday access to essential public infrastructure.

Since the publication of this item, our office confirmed that one of the mailboxes was restored, but the second one was not. Furthermore, the Berkeley City Council has received correspondence that mailboxes at other Berkeley locations were also removed and/or that services at USPS offices were reduced in other ways.

Public mailboxes are vital to the timely exchange of bills, legal documents, small business shipments, and critical correspondence. Their removal or reduction forces residents to travel farther, endure longer waits at remaining facilities, and face delays in deliveries, an unacceptable burden in a city where mail is a lifeline for medication, newspapers, and government communications.

The mailboxes at the Berkeley Main Post Office and other Berkeley USPS locations served as a key hub in a vibrant, high-traffic commercial corridor, where visitors often combined postal errands with trips to nearby shops, restaurants, and civic spaces. The removal risks disrupting this ecosystem, reducing downtown foot traffic, and weakening the local economy.

Moreover, this action threatens to widen existing inequities, disproportionately affecting lower-income residents, seniors, and individuals without reliable internet access, all of whom rely on traditional mail for essential services. According to a 2021 Pew Research Center survey, approximately 27% of seniors aged 65 and older do not use the internet, relying heavily on USPS for managing finances, receiving Social Security notices, and other essential communications¹.

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2021/04/02/7-of-americans-dont-use-the-internet-who-are-they/>

BACKGROUND

Berkeley has long spoken up against USPS closing places and cutting back services, since it makes mail slower and hurts our neighborhoods. Now, removing these mailboxes from the Berkeley Main Post Office and other Berkeley USPS branches is another concern. This latest removal from the Berkeley Main Post Office is equally troubling by the way in which these actions appeared to have been unilaterally taken by, as USPS without any advance notification to the Berkeley community has provided and no transparent absent any data showing that ~~this~~ these mailboxes ~~were~~ are underused or cost inefficient.

The removal of these mailboxes ~~from the Berkeley Main Post Office~~ is not an isolated action, it represents a continued erosion of public infrastructure that Berkeley residents have long fought to protect. The Main Post Office itself, located in a historic landmark building, in 2013, Berkeley residents, labor unions, and civic leaders successfully organized to block the sale of the building to private developers, affirming that the USPS is not only a service but a vital part of the city's public commons². In 2013 Berkeley City Council passed a resolution opposing the sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office³.

Berkeley has repeatedly demonstrated that its community values accessible, public-serving infrastructure and has stood at the forefront of protecting the USPS from privatization and cutbacks. This resolution item continues that legacy, reinforcing the city's commitment to equitable access, economic vitality, and public stewardship.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Limited staff time is required to communicate the City's position to State the intended recipients, representatives. No direct impact on the General Fund. However, reduced access to postal services risks indirect economic harm to Berkeley residents and small businesses by disrupting essential operations and reducing foot traffic in the downtown and other Berkeley business districts that are adjacent to USPS branches. foot traffic.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The removal of these mailboxes will likely force more residents to drive farther for postal services, increasing vehicle trips, greenhouse gas emissions, and downtown congestion. Retaining convenient, walkable mail infrastructure in the heart of the city directly supports Berkeley's climate and sustainability goals by reducing car dependency and supporting transit-oriented neighborhoods.

CONTACT PERSON

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² Berkeleyside. *Locals, city fight on to prevent sale of Berkeley Post Office*, July 19, 2013.

<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2013/07/19/locals-city-fight-on-to-prevent-sale-of-berkeley-post-office>

³ City of Berkeley. *Resolution Opposing the Sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office*, March 5, 2013. <https://newspack-berkeleyside-cityside.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/2013-03-05-Item-15-Opposing-the-Sale.pdf>

Shamaila Ahmed, Legislative Aide, Council District 4
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ATTACHMENTS:

- ResolutionLetter

June XX, 2025

TO: United States Postmaster General David Steiner
Berkeley Postmaster Candace Champion-Forbes
United States Senator Alex Padilla
United States Senator Adam Schiff
Congressmember Lateefah Simon (CD-12)

Subject: Opposition to the Removal of USPS Mailboxes from Berkeley Post Offices and Demand for Transparency

Dear Postmaster General Steiner, Berkeley Postmaster Champion-Forbes, Senators Padilla and Schiff, and Congressmember Simon,

The City of Berkeley City Council, representing the concerns of our residents, businesses, and community organizations, formally expresses its strong opposition to the recent and unexplained removal of public mailboxes from the Berkeley Main Post Office and other Berkeley Post Office locations. We seek to engage with you to restore these essential public services and demand transparent communications with the Berkeley community prior to contemplating any and all future reductions to United States Postal Service (USPS) services.

The Berkeley Main Post Office, a landmark civic institution, serves thousands daily. The sudden removal of these critical public mailboxes without any prior notice or explanation caused significant confusion, frustration, and alarm among our constituents. Many residents, particularly seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those without reliable internet access, rely heavily on accessible mail services for essential communications, including bills, legal documents, medication, and government notices. The reduction in services forces our residents to travel farther, endure longer waits, and face unacceptable delays, exacerbating existing inequities.

While we acknowledge that one mailbox has been restored at the Main Post Office, the removal of others across the city and the lack of communication remains a profound concern. Public mailboxes are vital infrastructure, contributing not only to timely exchange of critical correspondence but also supporting the vitality of our downtown and other commercial corridors by generating essential foot traffic for adjacent businesses.

The City of Berkeley calls on the USPS to immediately restore all removed mailboxes and engage in transparent and proactive communication with our community regarding any future plans that may impact essential postal services. A robust and accessible postal service is fundamental to the well-being and equity of our community.

Respectfully,

Berkeley, CA Mayor Adena Ishii

Members of the Berkeley, CA City Council

RESOLUTION NO. XX,XXXN.S.

**~~RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF USPS MAILBOXES FROM THE
BERKELEY MAIN POST OFFICE ON ALLSTON WAY~~**

~~WHEREAS~~, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has removed public mailboxes from the Berkeley Main Post Office on Allston Way, a vital civic institution serving Downtown Berkeley residents, businesses, and organizations; and

~~WHEREAS~~, such removal imposes undue burdens on seniors, persons with disabilities, small businesses, newspapers, and community groups who rely on efficient, accessible local mail services; and

~~WHEREAS~~, USPS has provided no clear public rationale for removal, claiming only that the removed mailboxes were underutilized or unprofitable; and

~~WHEREAS~~, these mailboxes contributed to the vitality of Berkeley's downtown economy by supporting foot traffic to nearby shops, restaurants, and services; and

~~WHEREAS~~, their removal has a potential to increase vehicle trips, lengthen lines at remaining facilities, and impose financial and logistical hardships on employees, residents, and small businesses; and

~~WHEREAS~~, timely, accessible mail service is essential for equitable access to healthcare, legal services, government programs, and small business operations, especially for vulnerable populations; and

~~WHEREAS~~, this action aligns with a troubling national pattern of USPS disinvestment and infrastructure removal that threatens public access to essential services.

~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City formally opposes the removal of USPS mailboxes from the Berkeley Main Post Office on Allston Way; and

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that the City of Berkeley transmit this resolution to Congresswoman Lateefah Simon (CD-12), the Postmaster representing the City of Berkeley, and the Postmaster General.