



Office of the Mayor
Mayor Tom Bates

ACTION CALENDAR
March 5, 2013

To: Honorable members of the City Council
From: Mayor Tom Bates
Councilmember Jesse Arreguin
Councilmember Laurie Capitelli
Councilmember Susan Wengraf
Subject: Opposing the Sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution opposing the sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office and submit to USPS prior to the close of their public comment period on the potential sale of the facility. Send Resolution to the attention of:

Diana Alvarado
Facilities Implementation – Pacific Area
U.S. Postal Service
1300 Evans Ave. Ste. 200
San Francisco CA 94188-8200

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minimal.

BACKGROUND

On July 31, 2012 the Berkeley City Council created the Post Office Subcommittee to address the possible sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office. The Post Office Subcommittee met on February 12, 2013 so that members of the community concerned about the possible sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office had an opportunity to address the subcommittee. The following are the recommendations that the Post Office Subcommittee wishes to bring back to the Council for consideration:

- The City of Berkeley formally opposes the sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office building and demands that the United States Postal Service maintain existing services at the Berkeley Main Post Office.

- The City of Berkeley reminds USPS of the constitutional requirement to provide postal services to the public.
- The City of Berkeley requests that USPS immediately impose a moratorium on all sales of Post Office buildings nationwide.
- The City of Berkeley requests that its federal representatives hold hearings on the requirement that the USPS pre-fund its pension obligations.
- The City of Berkeley shall reach out to other cities affected by the sale of postal facilities to develop a collective response.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) will be holding a public meeting on February 26, 2013 to explain the proposal and hear comments from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers located at 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. USPS will close the public comment period 15 days after the February 26th meeting which will expire on March 13, 2013.

This resolution would provide the City Council the opportunity to submit a written response to USPS before the expiration of the 15 day public comment period.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Tom Bates 510.981.7100

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
2. Notice of USPS public meeting on February 26, 2013

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

OPPOSING THE SALE OF THE BERKELEY MAIN POST OFFICE

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service (USPS) has announced the possible sale of Berkeley's historic and heavily used Main Post Office located at 2000 Allston Way; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Main Post Office is both an official landmark of the City of Berkeley and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2012 the City Council created the Post Office Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, USPS will be holding a public meeting on February 26, 2013 to explain the proposal and hear comments from the public; and

WHEREAS, USPS has a 15 day written public comment period that will expire on March 13, 2013 and the City Council wishes to submit this resolution before the public comment period ends; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2013 the Post Office Subcommittee held a public meeting where members of the community had the opportunity to address their concerns regarding the possible sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley formally opposes the sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office building and demands that the United States Postal Service maintain existing services at the Berkeley Main Post Office; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley reminds the USPS of the constitutional requirement to provide postal services to the public; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley requests that USPS immediately impose a moratorium on all sales of Post Office buildings nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley requests that its federal representatives hold hearings on the requirement that the USPS pre-fund its pension obligations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley shall reach out to other cities affected by the sale of postal facilities to develop a collective response.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley formally opposes the sale of the Berkeley Main Post Office building and demands that the United States Postal Service maintain existing services at the Berkeley Main Post Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley reminds the USPS of the constitutional requirement to provide postal services to the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley requests that USPS immediately impose a moratorium on all sales of Post Office buildings nationwide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley will request that its federal representatives hold hearings on the requirement that the USPS pre-fund its pension obligations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley shall reach out to other cities affected by the sale of postal facilities to develop a collective response.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to USPS prior to the expiration of the public comment period which ends on March 13, 2013.



February 5, 2013

Notice of Public Meeting and Comment Period for Proposed Relocation of Berkeley Post Office

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is proposing the relocation of the Berkeley Post Office, located at 2000 Allston Way.

If the move is approved, the ZIP Code will remain the same, and our goal is to retain all PO Box numbers.

Public input on this proposed relocation is welcome. A public meeting will be held to explain the proposal and hear comments from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 26, 2013**, at the Berkeley Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Berkeley.

Written comments are also being accepted until March 13, 2013. Please submit written comments to:

Diana Alvarado
Facilities Implementation – Pacific Area
U.S. Postal Service
1300 Evans Ave. Ste. 200
San Francisco CA 94188-8200

The reason behind the proposal is the realignment of USPS infrastructure to a 26-percent drop in total mail volume over the past three years, brought about by the diversion to electronic communication and business transactions. USPS does not receive tax dollars for its operations or facilities, but covers costs solely through the revenue received from the sale of its products and services.

The Postal Service is in a very serious financial situation and is facing insolvency. Every opportunity to reduce expenses and generate revenue is being considered in order to maintain universal service to our customers. If this relocation is approved, USPS anticipates selling the current Berkeley Post Office building.

