

FILED  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2014 FEB 26 PM 2: 35

CITY OF OAKLAND



ONE FRANK OGAWA PLAZA • 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Councilmember Kaplan

(510) 238-7008

**Re: Resolution supporting the Postal Service Protection Act and urging Senator Boxer and Feinstein to support the act that protects 6 day mail delivery, mail processing, and door to door service to households and businesses.**

Dear Members of the City Council:

Currently there are two postal reform bills being considered on Capitol Hill H.R. 630 the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 and S.316 the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013. This resolution urges Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Dianne Feinstein to support postal reform legislation that include the key provisions necessary to return the Postal Service to financial health in both the short and long terms.

These provisions include:

- Securing the continuance of 6-day mail delivery;
- Stabilizing the Postal Service's finances by reforming or eliminating future retiree health financing policies.
- Strengthening and protecting the Postal Service's mail processing, retail and last-mile delivery networks.
- Retaining door-to-door delivery for 30 million plus households and businesses

#### Background

The US Postal Service is part of the infrastructure of the U.S. economy, serving people and businesses and the connecting the country. The core function of the postal service is to provide the secure, reliable and affordable delivery of mail and packages to every address in America, it's territories and military installations world wide

The U.S. Postal Service is the core of a more than 1.3 trillion dollar mailing industry that handles 40% of the world's mail volume, employs more than 8 million people, and generates \$673 billion dollars in revenue.

Letter carriers walk our neighborhoods, and help monitor the wellbeing of our neighborhoods and community.

6  
RULES & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

MAR 06 2014

Unlike digital services, mail has no monthly plan, no signal outages or roaming charges. Regardless of geographic location, any can send a letter to anywhere in the U.S, its territories and US military and diplomatic installations worldwide. The postal service is an important communication tool, that is accessible, affordable and available to all.

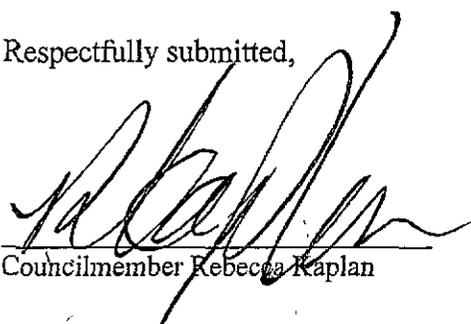
The postal Service is the only organization in the country that has the resources, network infrastructure and logistical capacity to deliver to every residential and business address in the nation. Generating \$222.2 million dollars in revenue and processing and delivering 523 million mail pieces a day, it is a self-sufficient and self-sustaining enterprise. No tax dollars are used for operating expenses.

The long term financial challenges facing the USPS are due in part to the increased use of the internet, but in addition to the impacts of the recession, the primary cause of the financial losses over the past six years is the requirement mandated by Congress that the Postal Service aggressively pre-fund all of its future retiree health benefits within 10 years. At current date the Postal Service's retiree health benefits are already 49 percent pre-funded. No other federal agency has pre-funded its employees' health benefits, and companies are not required to pre-fund retiree health benefits. Prior to 2006 the Postal Service was funding its future retiree health benefits as they go annually and never had an issue doing so.

**Recommendation:**

Support the resolution which urges Senator Boxer and Feinstein to support the Postal Service Protection Act that protects 6 day mail delivery, mail processing, and door to door service to households and businesses throughout the country.

Respectfully submitted,

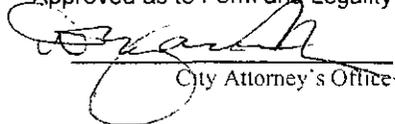


Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan

Prepared by:  
Ada Chan: Policy Analyst – Councilmember Kaplan

**RULES & LEGISLATION CMTTE**

**MAR 06 2014**

  
City Attorney's Office

2014 FEB 26 PM 3:59

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmembers Kaplan

---

## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE POSTAL SERVICE PROTECTION ACT AND URGING SENATORS BOXER AND FEINSTEIN TO SUPPORT THE ACT THAT PROTECTS 6 DAY MAIL DELIVERY, MAIL PROCESSING, AND DOOR TO DOOR SERVICE TO HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES

**WHEREAS**, the US Postal Service is a vital component of this country's economic and communications infrastructure handling and delivering 160 billion pieces of mail and generating more than \$65 billion in revenues annually, while receiving no taxpayer funding, and

**WHEREAS**, the mailing industry, which employs 8 million Americans, generates over \$1 trillion dollars annually, and represents approximately seven percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), depends on the US Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail and last-mile delivery networks 6 days a week; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Postal Service is the only private company or federal agency required by Congress to pre-fund future retiree health benefits for 75 years, requiring \$5.5 billion dollars to be paid annually, the health benefits for postal retirees are fully funded with billions of dollars in excess, so there is no need to require a crippling \$5.5 billion additional annual payment that is causing unnecessary service cuts; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting voting by mail, which is now commonplace in California, is essential to our democracy, and

**WHEREAS**, the US Postal Service employs over a thousand employees in the City of Oakland, and

**WHEREAS**, Postal Service operation is funded through the sale of postage, products and services using no tax dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Postal Service is the second largest employer of veterans in the country with over 22% of its employees United States veterans, and

**WHEREAS**, rural communities, many of which do not have access to the internet, remain dependent on the Postal Service for vital communications and for the shipment of goods, and

**RULES & LEGISLATION CMTTE**

MAR 06 2014

6

**WHEREAS**, small businesses along with many Americans, particularly seniors, depend on the Postal Service for receipt of their prescription drugs; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Oakland City Council urges United States Senator Barbara Boxer and United States Senator Dianne Feinstein to support postal reform legislation that would secure the continuance of 6-day mail delivery, stabilize the Postal Service's finances by reforming or eliminating future retiree health financing policies that are crippling the Postal Service's finances, strengthen and protect the Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail and last-mile delivery networks that together comprise a crucial part of the nation's infrastructure; and retain door-to-door delivery for 30 million plus households and businesses, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to both United States Senator Barbara Boxer and United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, and to the United States Postmaster General.

**IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,**

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES – BROOKS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, SCHAAF AND PRESIDENT KERNIGHAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

LaTonda Simmons  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California

6

**RULES & LEGISLATION CMTTE**

**MAR 06 2014**