

Cradock Civic League

February 22, 2010

Joanna Hall, President

Cradock Civic League
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Attention:

Senator Mark Warner

101 W. Main Street, Suite 4900
Norfolk, VA 23510
Phone Number: 757-441-3079 Fax Number: 757-441-6250

Dear Senator Mark Warner,

The Cradock Civic League thanks you Senator Warner for inquiring about the potential closure of the Cradock Station Post Office on behalf of the Cradock Civic League and providing us with the USPS Government Relations Representative James K. Cari response letter. However, the Cradock Civic League does not feel that Mr. Cari adequately addressed the concerns raised by the Cradock Civic League and the Cradock Community.

The first request of our letter was not addressed. The Cradock Civic League requested that the Postal Service make all documentation and information gathered and used to justify the closure of the Cradock Station Post Office public. We are requesting that the Richmond District postal officials (Monica Ball – Post Office Review Coordinator – 804 775 6248) make all data public and provide copies of all data gathered in their “on- going” study to the Cradock Civic League during the review process (now and as soon as possible) and not after the Post Office closure announcement. The Cradock Civic League request overhead and profit information and data for the Cradock Station Post Office for the fiscal year of 2007 to the present. This information will allow us to compare the Cradock Station Post Office profitability at normal operations hours and to its current reduced hours of operations. In addition, we are requesting to have overhead and profit data for all the City of Portsmouth Post Offices for the fiscal year of 2007 to the present. This data will allow us to compare the Cradock Station Post Office profitability to other Portsmouth Post Office Branches. Please provide all the above requested information as soon as possible.

The second concern was not addressed. The Cradock Station Post Office is a vital component to the uniqueness of the history of Historic Cradock. Cradock was the first planned shopping center and community constructed in 1918. It was annexed by the City of Portsmouth from Norfolk County in 1960. The annexation order gave a detailed description of the agreement and even stated under section TWO item five - Provision of services and facilities in general: “*The City of Portsmouth shall provide in the annexed territory such services as are furnished in the remainder of the City in accordance with the standards maintained under like conditions throughout the City, but the standard of services provided by the City in the annexed territory shall not be below the standard of similar services now provided by the County in said territory.*” What is the USPS response to the annexation agreements “standard of services” and providing postal service to the annexed territory (Cradock)?

The third concern was not addressed. The Cradock Post Office is a vital service to the citizens residing in 23702 zip codes. The Cradock Post Office serves as a “service destination point” that draws potential retail customers into Cradock’s commercial area - Afton Square. The Cradock Community has had a long hard battle this year against vacant and derelict structures. The closure of the Cradock Post Office would create another vacant building on Afton Square. The Cradock Community understands the difficult financial times we are living in. However, the USPS closure of the Cradock Station Post Office in its efforts to reduce cost will have severe and detrimental economic effects to the small business within Afton Square and the Cradock Community. Many of our residents are without transportation and are elderly seniors that rely on walking to the Cradock Post Office to complete basic postal transactions.

In closing, the Cradock Civic League is requesting a more thorough review and a more complete response from the USPS. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Joanna Hall, President