

JOSÉ M. SERRANO
SENATOR, 29th District

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April 19, 2013

Joseph Mulvey
Facilities Implementation
U.S. Postal Service
2 Congress St., Room 8
Milford, MA 01757

Dear Mr. Mulvey,

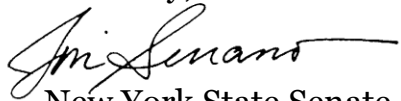
I write to you as the State Senator representing constituents utilizing the Tito Puente Post Office branch located on 167 E. 124th St. It is my understanding that the United States Postal Service (USPS) has proposed the downsizing and relocation of this branch. I believe that moving the facility would severely burden East Harlem residents living in the area who rely heavily on the branch for their daily needs.

The Tito Puente branch is the only Post Office located in the upper portion of East Harlem. It serves residents of a community with a very high population of senior citizens and persons with disabilities. These customers may not be in the physical condition to wait on long lines, which will surely accompany a downsized facility. Similarly, these same customers may not have the ability to travel to the nearest alternative postal facility or even a relocation of this branch.

Unlike most parts of the country, a significant number of East Harlem residents do not own vehicles, and almost all postal customers walk to this branch. Therefore, a relocation of the facility can greatly affect the ability of an East Harlem resident to use the postal service for which they have been accustomed to using. It is my hope that while you consider the viability of closing and relocating the branch, you will look at more than measuring the proximity of a new branch on a map. Instead, I hope you consider the makeup of the community and the important role this branch has played in the lives of East Harlem residents for the past 40 years.

Once again, I urge you to examine the realities of this neighborhood, the nature of the customer base in East Harlem, and the increased hardship a relocation will cause postal service customers. For all of the foregoing reasons, I respectfully request that you keep the Tito Puente Branch open at its current location. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you in person should you see fit. Please feel free to contact me to discuss in further detail, (212)828-5829.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Scurano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

New York State Senate
29th Senate District

CC:

Honorable Bill Perkins, NYS Senate

Honorable Melissa Mark-Viverito, NYC Council

Honorable Charles Rangel, US Congress

Honorable Robert Rodriguez, NYS Assembly

Honorable Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President

Mr. Matthew Washington, Chairman, Community Board 11