

GREG LANDSMAN
1ST DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

1432 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3501
(202) 225-2216

961 E. McMILLAN ST. #C-1
CINCINNATI, OH 45206
(513) 810-7988

11 S. BROADWAY ST. #301
LEBANON, OH 45036
(513) 409-6188

October 5, 2023

The Honorable Louis DeJoy
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260

RE: Attacks Against USPS Letter Carriers in Greater Cincinnati

Dear Postmaster General DeJoy:

I write to express my deep concern over armed robberies and assaults against United States Postal Service (USPS) letter carriers in the greater Cincinnati area. Since January 2022, there have been 15 such attacks against letter carriers represented by the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Branch 43. In many cases, criminals are targeting letter carriers for their arrow keys in order to gain access to the public's mail.

One instance includes the heinous attack last year against Norwood Post Office letter carrier Ryan Pierani – an eight-year employee of USPS who was robbed at gunpoint of his arrow key and cellphone. In addition to this attack, there have been four armed robberies out of the Groesbeck Post Office, four armed robberies out of the Mid City Post Office, two armed robberies out of the Norwood Post Office, two armed robberies out of the Corryville Post Office, and armed robberies out of the Taft Post Office, St. Bernard Post Office, and Western Hills Post Office.

Recently, I joined NALC Branch 43 at a rally in Cincinnati to raise awareness and speak out against these attacks on our letter carriers, and I understand that NALC Branch 43 has attempted to mitigate the risks letter carriers face by requesting commonsense solutions such as training from law enforcement – including what to look out for and how to respond when approached by an assailant with a gun. Additionally, NALC Branch 43 has requested arrow keys for all letter carriers, including those who do not have one assigned to their route, so that if they were to be robbed, they would have an arrow key on them – however, USPS has yet to provide them.

Given what we have seen in the greater Cincinnati area, I am concerned that there may not be enough personnel or resources for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) to adequately investigate and prevent the high amount of crime against letter carriers.

With USPS and USPIS undertaking and expanding Project Safe Delivery – with the goal of reducing letter carrier robberies includes installing 12,000 high-security blue collection boxes and installing 49,000 electronic locks to replace the antiquated arrow and modified arrow lock keys – I request that the greater Cincinnati area be made a priority for the Project.

Additionally, I have the following questions:

- Will USPS commit to providing training from law enforcement – including what to look out for and how to respond when approached by an assailant with a gun, and how to respond to an armed robbery – to every greater Cincinnati area Post Office?
- Will USPS commit to providing arrow keys to every letter carrier route in greater Cincinnati area Post Offices?
- Does USPIS have adequate personnel and resources necessary to investigate and protect letter carriers from these attacks?
- As part of Project Safe Delivery, when and where will high-security blue collection boxes and electronics boxes be installed in the greater Cincinnati area?

I look forward to working with USPS and USPIS to ensure the safety of our letter carriers, and I appreciate responses to the concerns and questions that I have raised herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Landsman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Greg Landsman
Member of Congress