



National Association of Letter Carriers

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Mr. Chip LaMarca
Chairman
Republican Party of Broward County
150 S. Andrews Ave.
Suite No. 370
Pompano Beach, FL 33069

Dear Mr. LaMarca:

On behalf of more than 300,000 letter carriers nationwide and the 2,000 city letter carriers in Broward County, I write to express our dismay and outrage with the comments attributed to you and to Colleen Stolberg by Tony Man of The Sun-Sentinel newspaper. In an article posted on the Broward Politics page of Sun-Sentinel.com, Man reports that Republican officials are warning Republican absentee voters to be wary of using the Postal Service to return their ballots. It suggests that some 28,000 ballots are somehow missing. Worse, Ms. Stolberg is quoted as saying: "It is a shame that we cannot trust the postal people," and that "These people are stealing votes from us." The article goes on to cite your tacit agreement with the scurrilous charges made by her.

A member of my staff called Ms. Stolberg and was told that her comments resulted from the claim of a single voter who claims that an unidentified postal clerk mishandled his absentee ballot. This appears to be a preposterously thin basis for making the serious charge that postal employees are "stealing our votes."

As letter carriers, we take our responsibility to deliver and protect the sanctity of the mail very seriously. It is a federal crime for our members to steal or otherwise delay the proper delivery mail. We demand to know what other evidence you and Ms. Stolberg have that postal employees are stealing GOP ballots. Otherwise, you had no grounds for slandering the postal employees of Broward County. Indeed, if you do not have any other solid evidence, you owe every postal employee in South Florida – some 20,000 workers in all – an apology. I would think the many thousands of Republicans who work for the Postal Service in Florida would be especially offended.

Letter carriers and other postal employees are deeply patriotic Americans. We believe in democracy and the sacred right to vote. Like me, a large percentage of them have served in the armed forces of this great country. I am not aware of a single letter carrier in Florida or anywhere else in America who would risk their jobs and their freedom by allowing their political preferences to interfere with the performance of their official duties. That you and Ms. Stolberg would suggest otherwise without offering solid proof is simply outrageous.

I will await a prompt response to this letter. If we do not receive a reasonable explanation by the close of business Friday, I will make it my mission to inform every postal employee in South Florida about the apparent willingness of the Republican Party of Florida to besmirch the reputations of decent and hard-working postal employees without foundation. That is a fact worth considering when they go to the polls next Tuesday.

Sincerely,

William H. Young
President

Cc: Jim Greer, Chairman, Republican Party of Florida
Mike Duncan, Chairman, Republican National Committee