NALC responds to OMB proposal to privatize USPS

NALC President Fredric Rolando criticized the Trump administration’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposal to privatize the United States Postal Service, which was released on June 28, as part of an overall plan to radically reorganize the federal government. His statement reads:

“This report takes direct aim at numerous agencies including USPS under the guise of reforming and restructuring for the 21st century,” President Rolando said. “The White House is making very clear that privatization of the Postal Service is its goal, despite the fact that the stakeholder meetings with the White House Postal Task force are ongoing. NALC has long been committed to working with all of the stakeholders and Congress to oppose privatization plan every single step of the way to preserve this public institution, which is based in the Constitution.”

The full report, which is titled, “Delivering Government Solutions in the 21st Century,” calls for massive changes in the organization of virtually every agency in the federal government. Of special note is a chapter to letter carriers is the plan to merge the departments of Labor and Education into a new Department of Education and the Workforce (DWE), a move that would place workers in a compensation program the Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs (OWCP), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and other agencies that enforce labor market standards into a new Enforcement division of the DWE. Leaving aside the dubious logic of having a single agency deal with everything from K-12 education to workplace safety and labor market regulations, the real impact would depend on funding levels and other crucial matters.

The report also calls for breaking up the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), shifting the agency’s policy-making activities on federal employee regulations to the Executive Office of the President (EOP) in the White House and sending the administration’s employment and benefit programs to the General Services Administration, an agency that now manages federal real estate and government-wide procurement contracts. Given that the Trump administration’s budget cuts have already dealt huge blows in federal pensions and health benefits, the proposed reorganization of OPM should be seen as a direct threat to letter carrier benefits.

NALC submits postal workforce recommendations to White House

In a meeting with the White House on June 5, NALC President Fredric Rolando delivered policy recommendations to the White House Task Force on the Postal Service. The task force, composed of officials from the Department of Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of the Treasury, was established in April by an executive order from President Donald Trump. It has been charged with evaluating the finances of USPS—excluding pricing, operational unit costs and workforce.