

More action needed to prevent crimes against letter carriers



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In my installation speech in December, I spoke about the horrific wave of crimes against letter carriers and the hold such incidents have taken in many areas across the country. More and more, letter carriers are working in fear because they are being attacked by violent criminals who rob letter carriers of their mail or their keys to later steal from collection boxes. Unfortunately, such robberies have become much more frequent.

As I have previously stated, we have been working with postal management, the Postal Inspection Service and the Office of Inspector General regarding the growing level

of crime and violence against letter carriers. A few weeks ago, I met with Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, Deputy Postmaster General Doug Tulino and Chief Postal Inspector Gary Barksdale to further discuss these problems and potential solutions.

The increasing level of crime and robberies over the last few years is staggering. From USPS's Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2022, the number of thefts from mail receptacles has almost doubled. In that same time, the number of robberies against letter carriers has increased more than fivefold. This trend must be stopped. We cannot stand by and allow these appalling crimes to persist. Drastic measures are needed to protect letter carriers now.

USPS is currently testing new methods of reinforcement to better secure collection boxes, and it plans to expand these security enhancements in various locations throughout the country. Efforts such as this are a good start, but more action is needed.

At my meeting with Postmaster General DeJoy, Deputy Postmaster General Tulino and Chief Postal Inspector Barksdale, we committed to work together on initiatives to better protect letter carriers from violent criminals. We discussed starting by focusing on the known highest-crime areas and on the need for a concerted effort from everyone involved in these areas to solve the problem.

It's going to take local USPS officials, NALC representatives, law enforcement organizations, civic organizations, political representatives and citizens all working together

to bring awareness to the problem and ultimately to stop these crimes. It's also going to take enhanced internal USPS communications regarding steps employees can take to safeguard themselves and each other.

As a union, we must do all we can do to make this problem stop. As president of this union, I am committed to taking any and all steps necessary to do just that.

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Gearing up for the food drive

This year marks 31 years since the first letter carriers' food drive. As everyone knows, the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has been a huge success throughout the years, collecting more than 1.8 billion pounds of food for America's food banks in the communities we serve every day. We are proud of our efforts, which have made a difference for so many people across the country. Such success does not come easy though.

The food drive wouldn't be possible without the support of our national partners—the U.S. Postal Service, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association, Vericast, United Way Worldwide, the AFL-CIO, Valpak, the Kellogg Co. and CVS Health. Our partnership with these organizations is key to our success. With their support, we receive assistance with paying for postcards, providing food donation bags for our customers, organizing volunteers, and getting the word out about the food drive. They also donate incredible amounts of food and money to food pantries nationwide.

Most importantly, none of our food drive success would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our local branch officers, food drive coordinators and letter carriers who work tirelessly to organize and execute the largest single-day food drive in the country. I'd like to thank all our volunteers, organizers, sponsors and letter carriers throughout the country for all that you do to help feed those facing food insecurity. I look forward to all we will accomplish for our communities this year on Saturday, May 13.