

City Delivery, Carrier Academy updates



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The Postal Service routinely sends correspondence to NALC on updates, initiatives and pilot tests that affect the letter carrier craft. One duty of the City Delivery Department is to review assigned USPS correspondences to check if there is any potential negative impact on the letter carrier craft. In this month's article, I will discuss a few of these USPS correspondences and provide an update on the Carrier Academy training materials.

Mobile Delivery Device- Technical Refresh (MDD-TR)

In my April *Postal Record* article, I notified the membership of an update made by the Postal Service in December 2025 to the MDD-TR regarding the hold mail process. Since this update, the City Delivery department sent questions to USPS on the hold mail process. Through a response letter dated March 26, USPS indicated that this update to the MDD-TR was not implemented but was created for the Mail Delivery Device In-Office (MDD-IO) handheld scanners typically utilized by clerks.

Although this update was not implemented for the city letter carrier craft, and as mentioned in last month's article, if local management denies you checking your hold mail in the office per the *M-41*, request to speak with your shop steward or branch officer and, if appropriate, request that a grievance be filed on your behalf.

Welcome to USPS (W2USPS)

In February, the Postal Service notified the NALC that it was in the process of revising the Welcome to the United States Postal Service for New Employees orientation material. Revisions done by the USPS included updates to the *Participant Guide* and *District's Facilitator Guide*. Drafts of these guides were also provided within the notification to NALC.

As of the writing of this article, my staff and I have been reviewing all edits, changes and additions made to these guides to ensure that they do not conflict with our collective-bargaining agreement or any postal handbooks or manuals. I will update the membership on any relevant or impactful changes that may have a negative effect on the city letter carrier craft.

Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) notice

In March, the Postal Service notified the NALC that it had filed notice with the PRC regarding a time-limited price change to align its cost of transportation with the market. This planned price change is an 8 percent increase that would affect base postage prices of the following retail and commercial domestic competitive products: Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, USPS Ground Advantage and Parcel Select.

Through this notification, USPS indicated that no other products or services would be affected. The price change, if favorably reviewed by the PRC, would go into effect on April 26, 2026, and would remain in place until Jan. 27, 2027.

Carrier Academy update

In my December 2024 and May 2025 *Postal Record* articles, I provided the membership with an update on the roundtable discussions with Carrier Academy facilitators and ongoing discussions between NALC and USPS on updating the training materials for the Carrier Academy. As it stands currently, all newly hired city carriers must complete the Postal Service's Standard Training Program for City Letter Carriers and the Carrier Academy. The complete training program consists of five phases: orientation, driver training, shadow day, Carrier Academy and on-the-job training.

Specifically, the Carrier Academy consists of five guides: *Administrator Guide*, *Site Readiness Guide*, *On-The-Job Training Guide*, *Facilitator Guide* and *Participant Guide*. During the roundtable discussions, these guides were reviewed by the Carrier Academy facilitators, my staff and me, and USPS Headquarters staff.

Since the last roundtable discussion held in March 2025, my staff and I have continued to meet with the Postal Service, both virtually and in person, to discuss all five guides and go over all suggestions and feedback provided to us during the roundtable discussions by the Carrier Academy facilitators.

As of the writing of this article, the City Delivery Department has received a draft from the Postal Service of the *Administrator Guide* and *Site Readiness Guide*. The drafts consist of suggested edits and changes based on discussions between NALC and USPS over the course of the last several months. My staff and I are in the process of reviewing these drafts. Although the finished product has not been completed yet, I believe we have continued to move in the right direction.

I will continue to share updates to Carrier Academy materials, MDD-TR updates and other initiatives and/or pilot tests received from USPS with the membership. Be sure to read my article each month and visit nalc.org for more information.