



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service is a vital component of our country's economic and communications infrastructure, handling and delivering 160 billion pieces of mail and generating more than 65 billion dollars in revenues annually – all without receiving a cent of taxpayer funding; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service is the second largest employer of veterans in the country, with over 22% of its employees having served in the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, both inner city and rural communities lacking access to the internet remain dependent on the U.S. Postal Service for vital communications, specialized services, and the shipment of a variety of goods; and

WHEREAS, small business owners depend on the U.S. Postal Service for their livelihoods, as do many Americans – particularly senior citizens, for receipt of their prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, the private mailing industry, which employs eight million Americans and generates over one trillion dollars annually, representing approximately seven percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), heavily relies on the U.S. Postal Service's mail processing, retail, and last-mile delivery networks six days a week; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Postal Service is the only private company or federal agency required by Congress to pre-fund future retiree health benefits for 75 years, at a cost of five-and-a-half billion dollars annually. However, these health benefit plans are not only fully funded, but carry a surplus of billions of dollars making the annual five-and-a-half billion dollar payments unnecessary alongside recent and pending service cuts justified by those payments:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Mayor and the members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this thirteenth day of November, 2014, hereby urge United States Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk to offer strong support to postal reform legislation designed to secure the continuance of 6-day mail delivery, stabilize the U.S. Postal Service's finances by reforming or eliminating future retiree health financing policies, strengthen and protect the U.S. Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail, and last-mile delivery networks, and retain door-to-door delivery for the 30 million plus households and businesses that rely upon it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon the City Council's Committee on Budget and Government Operations to hold a hearing for the purpose of further investigating the crucial issue of postal reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Senator Durbin, Senator Kirk, and the United States Postmaster General.


Mayor