



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

First, let me thank you for your swift action on addressing the recent issues involving the United States Postal Service. Houstonians are grateful for your continued efforts to do everything possible to ensure the USPS resumes on-time mail delivery.

As Mayor, I have great concerns regarding the changes in operations at the USPS. *The Washington Post* detailed this week that the Houston region has suffered a reduction in sorting capacity of 470,000 pieces of mail per hour, the second-largest reduction of any area of the country. The removal of these machines has sharply delayed the pace of mail delivery.

Other sweeping changes implemented by Postmaster Louis DeJoy are equally concerning. He has drastically reduced overtime, banned extra trips that ensured on-time mail delivery, and is responsible for reorganizations including the removal of several agency veterans in key operational roles.

Local media has documented how the slowdown in USPS package delivery has been harmful to small business, leaving them vulnerable to larger companies like Amazon.com and Walmart that can deliver packages quickly on a massive scale. Further, reports that life-saving prescription medications have been delayed by a week or longer are alarming.

As the 2020 election looms, our nation faces the grim prospect that absentee ballots will be delayed, unconscionably disenfranchising citizens in the midst of a global pandemic. Older, less mobile voters – who are also more at risk from COVID-19 – are especially vulnerable to losing their constitutional right to vote.

These changes have alarmed Americans. I include myself in that group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner".

Sylvester Turner

Mayor