

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BREADON



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS
REESTABLISHING A POST OFFICE LOCATION IN
ALLSTON

WHEREAS, Previously housed in a building located at 47 Harvard Avenue in Allston Village, the United State Postal Service (“USPS”) suspended service at the Boston-Allston Post Office Branch in 2019 when the building in which it was located was found to have structural issues; *and*,

WHEREAS, The former Allston Post Office site was subsequently purchased by Eden Properties, a real estate development firm that is currently constructing a mixed-used residential project on this site; as part of this project, Eden Properties has worked with USPS to reestablish the Allston Post Office Branch in ground-floor commercial space included in the development, coordinating with USPS on the lease and construction specifications for this space; *and*,

WHEREAS, In June 2025, USPS sent a letter to Mayor Wu in accordance with 39 C.F.R. § 241.4 confirming its final decision to relocate and reestablish the Allston Post Office Branch; this letter was sent following a required community input process and confirmed that the Postal Service would “reestablish retail operations for our customers in Allston, MA, for the long term...” and that this was the “final decision of the Postal Service with respect to this matter, and there is no right to further administrative or judicial review of this decision.”; *and*,

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, April 21, 2026, Council President Breadon received an email from James Ruffing, USPS Real Estate Specialist, stating that USPS had “decided to temporarily pause looking for an alternative facility while it further reviews the operational needs of the Allston, MA area”; *and*,

WHEREAS, On April 23, 2026, Eden Properties announced that USPS backed out on its decision to reestablish the Allston Post Office Branch, despite a fully negotiated lease and construction plans; *and*,

WHEREAS, In response to this action from USPS, local elected officials and the federal delegation from Allston-Brighton submitted letters to USPS leadership questioning this reversal and urging USPS to reestablish the Allston Post Office Branch; *and*,

WHEREAS, On July 2, 2026, Allston-Brighton’s federal delegation received a response to their letter from USPS; this letter states that USPS continues to review “the suspended Allston facility to determine next steps” and does not commit to the reestablishment of the Allston Post Office Branch; *and*,

WHEREAS, The approximately 87,000 residents of Allston and Brighton have been forced to rely solely on the Brighton Post Office Branch in Brighton Center for the past seven years, creating significant barriers for residents who must travel long distances, wait in long lines, and endure accessibility challenges; *and*,

WHEREAS, Allston’s immigrant communities, small business owners, and elderly residents rely heavily on the essential services that the Post Office provides, making it a vital resource for civic participation, economic activity, and daily life in the community; *and*,

WHEREAS, USPS provides essential services including but not limited to: secure and affordable mail and package delivery; access to P.O. boxes; passport application processing; money orders; certified and registered mail; delivery of medications and government documents; and reliable shipping services that support small businesses, residents without internet access, and individuals who depend on consistent mail delivery for financial, legal, and healthcare needs; *and*,

WHEREAS, USPS’s abrupt reversal after a finalized lease has caused confusion and frustration among residents, small businesses, and local officials, undermining public trust in the Postal Services commitment to equitable service delivery; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the United States Postal Services’s decision to halt the reestablishment of the Allston Post Office Branch, to review the impacts of this suspension to Allston-Brighton Residents, and invite relevant representatives from the United States Postal Service, Eden Properties, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, and the Boston Planning & Development Agency to testify. *BE IT FURTHER ORDERED* that the Council seeks clarity on USPS’s operational review process, timeline for decision-making, and obligations under federal regulations governing post office relocations and suspensions.

Filed on: July 6, 2026