



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

ALASKA

August 18, 2021

Jason.L.Mccurry@usps.gov

Mr. Jason McCurry
Senior Manager, Commercial Air Networks
United States Postal Service
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Mr. McCurry,

We are contacting you to express our concern and frustration with the ongoing problems regarding the timely delivery and safe handling of mail to our community, Saint Paul Island, Alaska. Saint Paul Island is located in the Bering Sea, more than 750 miles from Anchorage and 400 miles from mainland Alaska. Air service is our community's lifeline. We depend on passenger, freight, and mail air service for our basic necessities, day-to-day consumer goods, and medications.

Saint Paul Island's priority and bypass mail are delivered to our community by Alaska Central Express (ACE) Cargo. Delays are the norm and mail often arrives wet or damaged. As you will understand, living conditions in our remote island community are difficult enough. Non-subsistence food supplies, medications, and other household items must be flown in regularly, and are both expensive and vital to our day-to-day existence.

We have reached out to the USPS' Anchorage office on various occasions, including earlier this year, in an attempt to ameliorate the situation. However, these efforts have not resulted in any noticeable improvement. The situation remains untenable to our residents, and the social and economic well-being of our community.

Prior discussions with USPS Anchorage included requests to:

- increase monitoring of the mail at the current carrier through Ramp Clerks to make sure the mail is moving;
- encourage discussions between USPS and the current carrier to add extra sections to move the mail;
- have USPS Ramp Clerks check the freezers at the current carrier's facility;
- have USPS work with the current carrier to have mail that is first in, be the first out, and not to move new mail first; and
- timely completion of the process to get Ravn Alaska certified to carry mail, as Ravn Alaska has done in the past.

We believe that the latter option, certifying Ravn Alaska to carry mail to Saint Paul Island, offers the greatest potential for improvement in mail service. Ravn Alaska carries air passengers to Saint Paul Island, three (3) times per week, and could relieve the situation for Saint Paul Island bound mail significantly.

As of today, however, we understand that USPS Anchorage is not providing any Saint Paul Island mail to Ravn Alaska. It is unfair and substantially detrimental to the residents and businesses of our remote island community that the Ravn Alaska flights to Saint Paul Island do not carry mail to help ameliorate this situation. Why not put mail on the Ravn Alaska passenger flights that are operating to and from Saint Paul Island 3 times per week, in addition to the current carrier's flights?

We would like to meet with you to discuss this and other options, and to identify and address any impediments. We are hopeful that our concerns will be taken seriously and that steps will be taken to improve mail service and delivery to and from our community, including by allocating Saint Paul Island mail to Ravn Alaska to carry on its passenger flights to our community.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Zavadil, City Manager

cc:

Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Dan Sullivan
Congressman Don Young
Rob McKinney, CEO, Ravn Alaska
Saint Paul City Council