## OFFICE OF

INSPECTOR GENERAL
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

City Delivery and Customer Service
Operations Red Hook Station, NY

Audit Report

DR-AR-15-005
April 21, 2015

Red Hook Station personnel generally delivered mail to correct addresses and fulfilled customer needs. However,
we found customers experienced some misdelivered, irregular and untimely mail delivery.

## Background

In fiscal year (FY) 2014, the U.S. Postal Service's Triboro District received 41,953 customer complaints regarding mail delivery and customer service; 378 of these complaints were about the Red Hook Station (Station), NY, a unit of a main Post Office. Station customers complained about misdelivered, irregular, and untimely mail delivery; inadequate retail window service; and limited access to postal services at alternate locations.

This audit responds to a request from Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez of New York to review customer complaints regarding mail delivery and customer service. Our objectives were to evaluate whether mail was delivered accurately and timely, and if customers' needs were addressed at the Station.

## What The OIG Found

Station personnel generally delivered mail to correct addresses and fulfilled customer needs. However, we found customers experienced some misdelivered, irregular, and untimely mail delivery. In FY 2014, Station mail carriers delivered over 15.9 million pieces of mail. During this period, the Station received 33 complaints regarding misdelivered mail, 140 complaints of irregular mail delivery, and 34 complaints of untimely delivery of mail. Further, we found 23 of 378 customer complaints ( 6 percent) received at the Station were not resolved
on time. Finally, our review of Point-of-Sale surveys and retail data indicated instances of discourteous service and long wait times in line, while our observations identified poor upkeep of the Station. In FY 2014, 12 customers responded to the Point-of-Sale surveys. In 10 of these surveys, customers responded with negative comments about the sales and service associate who assisted them. Furthermore, wait times in line failed to meet standards in nine of 18 tests during FYs 2013 and 2014.

These issues occurred due to insufficient supervision at the Station. Specifically, supervisors did not always follow guidelines, establish clear expectations for work performance, address negative feedback, or clearly communicate with staff. We also found other operational issues, but are not making recommendations concerning them because management has addressed or is addressing them.

Improving delivery and customer service relating to the Station would enrich the customer experience and enhance the Postal Service's relationship with the public.

In other matters, congressional staff asked us to assess alternate retail access, including collection boxes. We identified 16 alternate retail locations within 1 mile of the Station delivery area serving customers, including eight collection boxes.

## What The OIG Recommended

We recommended the district manager, Triboro District, inform customers about the gopost® lockers, continue to pursue centralized parcel operations, adjust mail arrival from plants, and update the integrated operations plan. We also recommended communicating alternate retail access locations
to customers. Finally, we recommended the district manager, Triboro District, direct the manager, Station, to maintain a customer complaint control log, give custodial personnel written instructions for cleaning the facility, and ensure compliance with those instructions.

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## Findings

## In FY 2014, Station mail carriers

 delivered over 15.9 million pieces of mail. During this period the Station received 33 complaints regarding misdelivered mail, 140 complaints of irregular mail delivery, and 34 complaints of untimely delivery of mail.City Delivery and Customer Service Operations -

## Introduction

This report presents the results of our audit of City Delivery and Customer Service Operations - Red Hook Station (Station), NY (Project Number 15XG005DR000). This report responds to a request from Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez ${ }^{1}$ of New York to review customer complaints regarding mail delivery and customer service at the Station. Our objectives were to evaluate whether mail was delivered accurately and timely and if customers' needs were addressed at the Station. See Appendix A for additional information about this audit.

The Station ${ }^{2}$ is located in Brooklyn, NY, and provides service to residents of the Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, and Columbia Waterfront District communities. In fiscal year (FY) 2014, the Station delivered about 15.9 million pieces of mail to over 15,000 delivery points ${ }^{3}$ in these three communities. On September 24, 2014, Congresswoman Velazquez informed the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) of excessive complaints from local residents regarding mail delivery and unprofessional treatment. Local residents complained about misdelivered, irregular, and untimely mail delivery.

In a subsequent meeting, congressional staff relayed additional customer concerns about retail customer services. Residents reported window lines were too long and only one window was open at a time. Residents also said they had limited access to postal services at convenient locations. ${ }^{4}$ In FY 2014, the Triboro District received 41,953 customer complaints regarding mail delivery and customer service and 378 of these complaints were about the Station.

## Red Hook Station Customers Complain About Mail Delivery



Click on the icons for more information.
Reveal All
Reset

[^0]> Our review of alternate retail access identified 16 alternate retail locations within 1 mile of the Station delivery area serving customers, including eight collection boxes.

## Conclusion

Station personnel generally delivered mail to correct addresses and fulfilled customer needs; however, we found customers experienced some misdelivered, irregular, and untimely mail delivery. In FY 2014, Station mail carriers delivered over 15.9 million pieces of mail. During this period the Station received 33 complaints regarding misdelivered mail, 140 complaints of irregular mail delivery, and 34 complaints of untimely delivery of mail. Further, we found 23 of 378 customer complaints ( 6 percent) received at the Station were not resolved on time. ${ }^{5}$ Finally, our review of Point-of-Sale (POS) ${ }^{6}$ surveys and retail data indicated instances of discourteous service and long wait times in line (WTIL), while our observations identified poor upkeep of the Station. In FY 2014, 12 customers responded to the POS surveys, and 10 of these customers responded with negative comments about the sales and service associate who assisted them. Furthermore, WTIL failed to meet standards in nine of 18 tests during FYs 2013 and 2014.

These issues occurred due to insufficient supervision at the Station. Specifically, supervisors did not follow guidelines, establish clear expectations for work performance, address negative feedback, or clearly communicate with staff. We also found other operational issues, but we are not making recommendations concerning them because management has addressed or is addressing them.

Improving delivery and customer service relating to the Station would enrich the customer experience and enhance the Postal Service's relationship with the public.

In other matters, congressional staff asked us to assess alternate retail access, including collection boxes. We identified 16 alternative retail locations within 1 mile of the Station delivery area serving customers, including eight collection boxes.

## City Delivery Operations

The Station city carriers generally delivered mail to the correct address. However, some customers experienced misdelivered mail, and irregular and untimely mail delivery.

Accuracy. Station city carriers delivered over 15.9 million pieces of mail in FY 2014. We reviewed Address Management System (AMS) ${ }^{7}$ data and found no documented errors ${ }^{8}$ with customer addresses in the Station delivery area. However, the Station received 33 complaints of misdelivered mail in FY 2014 (see Appendix B). One reason mail was misdelivered was that 34 percent ${ }^{9}$ of the city carriers at the Station are city carrier assistants (CCA) ${ }^{10}$ and are not as familiar with the routes as regular city carriers are.

Mail was also misdelivered because many of the addresses in the Station delivery area were hard to find. In some cases, multiple names were written on an apartment mailbox while some addresses, names, and apartment numbers were handwritten. An example of this is 88 and 88A $3^{\text {rd }}$ Place. These addresses are easily confused because the only difference between them is a handwritten 88A on the steps leading to that address. The handwriting is difficult to see during the day and would have been even more difficult to see at night had it not been for the holiday lighting in place during our site visit (see Figures 1 and 2).

[^1]Figure 1. Difficult to Identify Address in the Daytime - Red Hook Area


Source: Google Maps street view, January 2013.

Figure 2. Difficult to Identify Address at Night - Red Hook Area


Source: OIG photograph taken December 11, 2014.

Because of the address challenges in the Station delivery area, management told us they assign CCAs on routes they are familiar with whenever possible. Therefore, we will not make a recommendation on this issue.

Irregular Mail Delivery. Station city carriers could not deliver mail to customers on a consistent basis. The Station received 140 complaints of irregular mail delivery in FY 2014 (see Appendix B). In most instances where customers complained, parcels were scanned as delivered, but delivery was not attempted on the day of the complaint. ${ }^{11}$ We found in most cases irregular mail delivery complaints were caused by:

- Incorrect shipper information. When parcels are dropped at Postal Service delivery units by a third-party shipper, the shipper's tracking system often shows the item as "delivered." However, this does not mean the parcels have been entered into the Postal Service tracking system, or given to the assigned carrier to deliver. Our limited observations confirmed the confusion caused by this practice. We will refer this matter to the OIG Sales and Marketing Directorate for a future review.

Malfunctioning residential buzzers. ${ }^{12}$ Malfunctioning buzzers at multi-unit buildings also contributed to delivery complaints. When buzzers are not in proper working order, carriers cannot contact customers to deliver parcels. Malfunctioning buzzers are the responsibility of the building owner or building management and complaints are handled by the city of New York. Therefore, we will not make a recommendation on this issue.
$\square$ Station personnel not informing customers of the gopost® lockers as an alternative delivery option. Despite the difficulty of delivering parcels in the Station area, Station management did not instruct personnel to inform customers of the availability of nearby gopost lockers as an alternative delivery option. Gopost units are automated, secured, self-service parcel lockers placed in convenient locations where customers can pick up or ship parcels at their convenience. The nearest gopost lockers are 1.2 miles away at the Cadman Plaza Post Office, Brooklyn, NY.

11 Due to concerns about mail theft, it is Postal Service policy for carriers not to leave parcels when no one is home if the carrier deems it is not safe even if the custome has provided instructions to leave the package.
12 Contractors performing cable work in the Brooklyn, NY, area accidentally cut through some wiring that caused residential buzzers to malfunction. Unknowingly, carriers used defective buzzers to notify customers that they had a delivery; however, the customers could not hear the buzzer to accept the mail and parcel delivery from the city carriers

## The Station did not have

 adequate floor space to effectively work the mail received by the delivery unit. Limited floor space at the Station led to workroom congestion, whichhindered parcel distribution, office operations, and supervisor oversight.

Untimely Mail Delivery. Station city carriers could not always deliver the mail on time. The Station received 34 complaints of untimely mail delivery in FY 2014 (see Appendix B). In addition, we found city carriers consistently returned late from street delivery. Specifically, between FYs 2013 and 2014 city carriers returning after 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. increased by 18.60 percent and 12.30 percent, respectively. The Postal Service's goal is for 90 percent of city letter carriers to return from street operations before 5 p.m. (see Table 1).

## Table 1. Percentage of City Carriers Returning After 5 P.M.

| Fiscal Year | $\mathbf{5}$ p.m. | $\mathbf{6}$ p.m. | $\mathbf{7}$ p.m. | $\mathbf{8}$ p.m. | $\mathbf{9}$ p.m. | $\mathbf{1 0}$ p.m. |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2013 | $70.70 \%$ | $35.20 \%$ | $6.10 \%$ | $0.90 \%$ | $0.30 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ |
| 2014 | $76.80 \%$ | $53.80 \%$ | $18.40 \%$ | $2.00 \%$ | $0.10 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ |
| Percent Change | $6.10 \%$ | $18.60 \%$ | $12.30 \%$ | $1.10 \%$ | $-0.20 \%$ | $0.00 \%$ |

Source: Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW), Delivery Data Mart.

Untimely mail delivery was caused by:

- Space constraints at the Station.

Late arriving mail from the processing and distribution center (P\&DC).

- Manual sorting of automation compatible mail rather than returning it to the P\&DC.
- Insufficient supervision and oversight of city delivery operations.

The Station did not have adequate floor space to effectively work the mail received by the delivery unit. Between FYs 2013 and 2014, the Station's parcel volume increased 16 percent while parcel growth nationally increased 8 percent. Limited floor space at the Station led to workroom congestion, which hindered parcel distribution, office operations, and supervisor oversight (see Figures 3 and 4).

Figure 3. Station Workroom Congestion


Figure 4. Station Carrier Work Area Congestion


Source: OIG photographs taken December 9, 2014, at 11:22 a.m.
Because the Station lacked enough floor space for carriers to properly prepare the mail for delivery, carriers had to place each type ${ }^{13}$ of mail in separate relay sacks. This meant each carrier routinely had four or more relay sacks of mail to organize on the ground each time he or she reloaded mail to continue delivery (see Figure 5).

Figure 5. Station Carrier Reloading Mail in the Dark


Source: OIG photograph taken December 11, 2014

13 Carriers deliver caseable mail, Delivery Point Sequence (DPS) mail, Flat Sequencing System mail, and parcels. DPS and Flat Sequencing System mail is arranged in delivery order for a particular carrier route. This mail requires no primary or secondary distribution

Triboro District officials are aware of the impact the space constraints had on delivery operations and were actively searching for facilities to centralize parcel operations. ${ }^{14}$ But they face challenges in securing additional space due to high rents in the area

Mail did not always arrive on time or in the proper mail mix from the P\&DC as outlined in the unit's integrated operating plan (IOP). The Postal Service designed the IOP to help stabilize mail flow by setting delivery units' and processing facilities' expectations for the arrival and quantity of mail. This information is critical to establishing appropriate staffing and reporting times to eliminate carrier delays.

Each day of our observations, the DPS and collection mail ${ }^{15}$ arrived 15 minutes to more than an hour late. In addition to being late, these dispatches brought large quantities of working mail (mail requiring sorting by clerks and casing by carriers) in excess of the agreed upon volumes in the IOP. Station management reports mail arrival delays in the Customer Service Daily Reporting System. ${ }^{16}$ However, mail arrival errors were not corrected by the P\&DC and mail continued to arrive late. With the late arrivals, management established later carrier reporting times to ensure that 80 percent of carrier routes' mail was available to prepare for delivery. ${ }^{17}$ On January 10, 2015, the Postal Service implemented the nationwide Network Rationalization initiative. ${ }^{18}$ This initiative removed the requirement for overnight delivery of First-Class Mail. Because of this change, the Triboro District plans to allow stations to move city carriers to earlier start times, which should reduce the frequency of city carriers returning after 5 p.m.

Also, supervisors did not always follow guidelines ${ }^{19}$ to return automation compatible mail to the P\&DC for processing into DPS. The Station's manager of Post Office Operations implemented a policy requiring district approval before unworked mail could be returned to the P\&DC. Because of this policy, the Station did not return automation compatible mail to the P\&DC for processing into DPS, but had clerks manually sort this mail. Therefore, city letter carriers had to wait for mail and then case the mail that should have been in DPS when it arrived from the P\&DC. This additional work increased carrier office time at the Station. During our fieldwork, management took corrective action and began returning unworked mail to the P\&DC. Therefore, we will not make a recommendation on this issue.

Finally, supervisors did not always establish clear daily expectations for carriers' leave and return times. They did not use the Workload Status report to determine the daily mail volume and route time. In addition, supervisors did not always follow up to identify issues for corrective actions using the Managed Service Point and Route Carrier Daily Performance report information. Supervisors' ability to monitor carrier performance and delivery operations was impacted by the Triboro District requirement that supervisors count individual hot case ${ }^{20}$ mail instead of using linear measuring ${ }^{21}$ and converting that measure to a piece count. As a result of our fieldwork, management took corrective action and changed their policy from individual counting to linear measurement, allowing supervisors more time to engage with city carriers. Therefore, we will not make a recommendation on this issue.

14 On December 9, 2014, Triboro District officials submitted a proposal to consolidate parcel operations in a parcel annex.
15 Due to an area mail processing consolidation beginning July 30, 2011, mail collected by Triboro District stations had to be sent an additional 14 miles away for cancellation and sorting at the Morgan Station P\&DC in New York City instead of to the Brooklyn P\&DC, which previously processed this mail. As a result, mail arrives at the Station later than when it was processed at the Brooklyn P\&DC, causing a later start time for city carriers.
16 Customer Service Daily Reporting System is a delivery unit based system with a formal delayed mail reporting tool.
17 Handbook M-39, Management of Delivery Services, Section 122.11.b, March 1998.
18 This change gives the P\&DC additional time to properly prepare and present the mail for distribution to the delivery unit.
19 Field Operations Standardization Development, Morning (AM) Standard Operating Procedures (AMSOP) II Guidebook, Section 1-2, 2007. The AMSOP provides standardized methods and processes to all delivery units.
20 A special distribution case in a delivery unit for last minute sorting or resorting of mail, especially preferential mail sorted to the wrong routes or received late. The carrier collects this mail before leaving for his or her route. Informally, this is also called end case and hot case.
21 Non-linear letter and flat mailpieces are counted by mail processing equipment and sorted to individual carrier routes. Linear mail requires manually measuring Non-linear letter and flat mailpieces are counted by mail p
the mail and casing it in delivery order at the delivery unit.

Customers complained of long
lines because only one retail
window was open; however,
we found that two or more
windows were open most of the time.

WTIL. ${ }^{24}$ Station customers also complained of long lines due to a single SSA staffed at one retail window (see Appendix A). We reviewed the station's WTIL data from the periodic mystery shops ${ }^{25}$ as well as our on-site observation during fieldwork. The Station's mystery shops data indicated the WTIL often exceeded the 5-minute goal for window operations. In FYs 2013 and 2014, 18 mystery shops were conducted at this location and nine of 18 ( 50 percent) failed to meet the 5 -minute goal (see Table 2). On the other hand, our data indicated that two or more retail windows were staffed at least 94 percent of the time; ${ }^{26}$ this data did not support customer complaints that long lines were due to a single open retail window (see Table 3).

Table 3. FYs 2013 and 2014 Mystery Shops at the Station

| FY WTIL | Occurrences Failed | Three Retail Windows Staffed | Two Retail Windows Staffed | One Retail Window Staffed |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Failed Mystery Shops |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 5 to 10 minutes | 3 | - | 11.1\% | 5.6\% |
| 11 to 15 minutes | 0 | - | - | - |
| 2014 5 to 10 minutes | 5 | 22.2\% | 5.6\% | - |
| 11 to 15 minutes | 1 | 5.6\% | - | - |
| Sub-Total Failed Mystery Shops | 9 | 27.8\% | 16.7\% | 5.6\% |
| Passed Mystery Shops |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 Less than 5 minutes | 5 | 5.6\% | 22.2\% | - |
| 2014 Less than 5 minutes | 4 | - | 22.2\% | - |
| Sub-Total Passed Mystery Shops | 9 | 5.6\% | 44.4\% | - |
| Total Mystery Shops | 18 | 33.4\% | 61.1\% | 5.6\% |

Source: EDW, Retail Data Mart.

During our audit, we observed ${ }^{27}$ one retail window staffed for the first half hour in the morning and two retail windows staffed thereafter. During this period, we found the average length per transaction was about 3 minutes. If more than four customers were waiting in line, the 5 -minute or less WTIL goal was not usually met (see Figure 7).

24 WTIL is very important to a Post Office's operation. The Postal Service wants to take care of its customers and ensure they complete their business transactions on a timely basis. Service in Five Minutes or Less is an initiative created to provide a level of service that keeps customer WTIL to a minimum while providing quality customer service. The retail organization is committed to achieving this service standard at least 87.5 percent of the time. Diverting time-consuming transactions away from the service. The retail organization is committed to achieving this service standard at least 87.5 percent of the time. Dit
25 The Mystery Shopper Program uses independently contracted "customers" who visit post offices and document their experiences by answering a standardized questionnaire. Each "customer" conducts a mailing transaction to test the quality of his or her experience at a retail unit.
26 Combine percentage for "Three Retail Windows Staffed" and "Two Retail Windows Staffed" columns.
27 Period covered initial retail window open 9 a.m. through 11:20 a.m. were not spot cleaned for smudges. Litter was not picked up from the parking lot or dock area (see Figures 10 and 11).

Figure 10. Station Walls


Source: OIG photographs taken December 11, 2014, at 7:44 a.m

Figure 11. Station Parking Lot


Source: OIG photograph taken December 11, 2014, at 8:07 a.m.

Postal Service policy requires custodians to vacuum and mop the retail lobby 1 to 3 times per week. Custodians must also clean the workroom and exterior areas 5 to 7 times per week. Local management has the discretion to change how frequently cleaning occurs based on local conditions. Poor maintenance occurred at the Station because management did not clearly communicate expectations for cleaning the station lobby or monitor performance.

## Recommendations

We recommended management
inform customers of alternative delivery options, pursue centralized parcel operations, adjust mail arrival from P\&DC and update the integrated operating plan as necessary, and communicate alternate retail access locations to customers.

## We also recommended

 management maintain a customer complaints log and give custodial personnel written instructions for cleaning the facility.We recommend the manager, Triboro District:

1. Inform customers of the gopost lockers as an alternative delivery option.
2. Continue to pursue centralized parcel operations.
3. Adjust mail arrival from processing and distribution centers and update the integrated operating plan as necessary.
4. Communicate alternate retail access locations to customers.

We recommend the manager, Triboro District, direct the manager, Red Hook Station, to:
5. Maintain a customer complaints control log.
6. Give custodial personnel written instructions for cleaning the facility and ensure compliance.

## Management's Comments

Management agreed with the findings and recommendations. In response to recommendation 1, district officials agreed to inform customers of the gopost lockers as an alternative delivery option. They developed an Every Door Direct Mailing (EDDM) to notify customers of gopost locations. Management completed implementation April 6, 2015.

In response to recommendation 2, district officials agreed that centralizing parcel operations could potentially provide greater efficiency; however, at this point they will optimize space in the facility by developing a new floor plan. The target implementation date is May 15, 2015.

In response to recommendation 3, district officials agreed to adjust mail arrival from processing and distributions centers and update the IOP. Officials stated that they updated mail arrival transportation schedules and IOPs to coincide with Network Rationalization. Management completed implementation on January 10, 2015

In response to recommendation 4, district officials agreed to communicate alternative retail access locations to customers They developed an EDDM to notify customers of alternative retail access locations and posted these locations in the retail lobby. Management completed implementation on April 6, 2015.

In response to recommendation 5, district officials agreed to maintain a customer complaint control log. Officials communicated with the station manager and initiated the log on April 7, 2015.

In response to recommendation 6, district officials agreed to give custodial personnel written instructions for cleaning the facility and to ensure compliance. They provided written instructions to custodians, created a checklist for compliance, and provided additional custodial support to improve overall facility appearance. The target implementation date is April 19, 2015.

See Appendix F for management's comments in their entirety.

Figure 12. Collection Boxes in the Red Hook Area


Source: OIG generated using google map background.
Local management decides the total number and location of collection boxes in a delivery area. Management makes these decisions by measuring mail volume in collection boxes and evaluating community interests and needs. ${ }^{36}$ Triboro District is constantly monitoring blue box use, and its recent evaluation of the Red Hook area had indicated coverage met the community's needs. However, as a result of our field work, Triboro District officials reassessed the Red Hook area and will be adding collection boxes, although the locations of those boxes has not been finalized.

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Appendix A: Additional Information

| Report Title | Report Number | Final Report Date | Monetary Impact <br> (in millions) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Window Retail Customer Service | MS-AR-15-001 | $1 / 29 / 2015$ | $\$ 288.5$ Million |

Report Results: Between FYs 2012 and 2013, an increasing number of customers expressed dissatisfaction with the service they receive at retail facilities. While the Postal Service's goal is 90 percent customer satisfaction, in FY 2013 more than 20 percent of survey respondents stated they had been treated "worse than other retailers" at Postal Service retail counters. Dissatisfied customers exist, in part, because procedures for improving customer service are not functioning as intended and there is a lack of continual, formal customer service training. Further, sales associates are selected based on seniority rules, rather than suitability for the position, as suggested by best practices. In addition, the Postal Service does not have a mandatory process to ensure managers regularly observe sales associates and provide feedback. Regular observation would help sales associates recognize where they need to improve their performance. Management was partially responsive to the recommendations and corrective actions should resolve the issues identified in the report. Management disagreed with the monetary impact.

| Retail Customer Service | MS-MA-15-002 | 10/17/2014 None |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Report Results: SSAs did not always inform customers about the availability and location of the POS survey link at the end of their transaction receipt. As a result, customers were not encouraged to complete the survey. Additionally, the Postal Service has not provided consistent guidance on using and communicating POS survey information to area, district, and unit level offices. Consequently, unit management cannot always take appropriate action to address customer service issues or recognize excellence. Management agreed with our findings and recommendations.

| City Letter Carriers Arriving After 5 p.m. <br> in the Capital Metro District$\quad$ DR-AR-14-006 | 7/21/2014 None |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |

Report Results: City carriers returning after 5 p.m. is a growing problem in the Capital District, increasing by 14 percent from FY 2011, Quarter (Q) 1 to FY 2013, Q4. This occurred because mail from the processing facilities did not meet times established in the IOP and management did not always properly supervise city delivery operations. Adhering to IOPs will improve mail arrival time and improved supervision of city letter carriers will reduce the number of carriers returning after 5 p.m., improve carrier safety, and reduce late mail delivery. Management agreed with our findings and recommendations.

| City Delivery Efficiency- South Florida | DR-AR-14-004 | 3/04/2014 | \$30,587,250 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Report Results: We found 83 of 112 delivery units ( 74 percent) in the South Florida District used 374,982 more workhours than projected because management did not always enforce policies and procedures for supervising city delivery operations and office and street supervision was inconsistent at the delivery units, allowing for some inefficiency in operations. We identified the potential to eliminate 374,982 workhours through improved supervision and other efforts to increase overall efficiency at these delivery units and avoid about $\$ 15$ million in costs annually. Management agreed with our findings, recommendations, and monetary impact.
Address Management System Data DR-AR-14-003 2/28/2014 \$30,233,901

Report Results: The Postal Service's efforts to reduce address database errors in AMS data were ineffective. Reported yearly errors have increased from 267,478 in FY 2011 to 430,843 in FY 2013, primarily because edit books were not updated consistently and street reviews were not always conducted on the routes that needed them. The Postal Service reduced emphasis on address accuracy by initially reducing the number of address management specialists by nearly 40 percent and then reclassifying them to bargaining technician positions. Further, the Postal Service did not have a formal standardized AMS training program or a follow-up process to ensure compliance. Management agreed in principle with the four recommendations. Management also agreed with the monetary impact.

| Report Title | Report Number | Final Report Date | Monetary Impact <br> (in millions) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| City Delivery Efficiency Pacific, | DR-AR-13-004 | $5 / 24 / 2013$ | $\$ 28,080,953$ |
| Southern, Western Areas |  |  |  |

Report Results: The Bay-Valley, Dakotas, Houston, Oklahoma, and Portland districts have opportunities for enhanced street delivery efficiency. We determined the districts could use about 7 fewer minutes of street time per day on each carrier route. ${ }^{37} \mathrm{We}$ found that management did not always reinforce policies and procedures for supervising city delivery street operations and street supervision was inconsistent at the delivery units, allowing for some inefficiency in operations. Officials indicated they are somewhat limited in providing oversight while carriers are performing street delivery due to office workload priorities. Reducing workhours by 340,499 and improving supervision would increase overall efficiency in these districts and provide potential cost avoidance of about $\$ 14$ million annually. Management agreed with our findings, recommendations, and monetary impact.

[^3]| 1. Poor customer service, unclean facility, <br> misdelivered mail. | x |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2. Discourteous staff, with exception of one SSA. | x |  |
| 3. Discourteous, with exception of two SSAs. | x |  |
| 4. Unprofessional staff. | x | x |
| 5. Insufficient retail staff, unclean facility, <br> and untimely mail delivery. |  | x |
| 6. Insufficient package labels and boxes <br> and discourteous staff. | x | x |
| 7. Great experience. |  | x |
| 8. Insufficient retail staff. | 2 | x |
| 9. Insufficient retail staff. | x |  |
| 10. Great experience. |  |  |
| 11. Insufficient retail staff. |  | 10 |
| 12. Long WTIL. |  |  |
| Total |  |  |

Source: Maritz Research: Postal Service vendor that performs POS survey analysis

## Appendix D: <br> Alternate Access Within 1 Mile of Red Hook Station Communities

| Alternate Access Sites | Site Type | Population 8,023 | Population 11,609 | Population 4,522 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | (Distance Measured in Miles) |  |  |
| 395 Court Street | APP | . 42 | . 13 | . 78 |
| 348 4th Avenue | APP | . 81 |  |  |
| 341 9th Street | APP | . 95 |  |  |
| 244 Court Street | APP | . 88 | . 38 | . 49 |
| 275 9th Street | PO | . 81 |  |  |
| 150 Court Street | APP |  | . 56 | . 38 |
| 4 Court Street | APP |  | . 86 | . 47 |
| 16 Court Street | APP |  | . 99 | . 55 |
| 156 Henry Street | APP |  | . 99 | . 44 |
| 1 Boerum Place | APP |  | . 86 | . 59 |
| 386 Fulton Street | APP |  | . 88 | . 67 |
| 271 Cadman Plaza \#1 | PO |  |  | . 62 |
| 271 Cadman Plaza \#2 | GP |  |  | . 62 |
| 210 Joralmon Street | PO |  | . 84 | . 51 |
| 84 Front Street | PO |  |  | . 95 |
| 520 Atlantic Avenue | APP |  | . 98 |  |

Note: Approved Postal Provider (APP); Post Office (PO) gopost (GP).
Source: USPS.com locator, Google Maps and City Data.com.

## Appendix E: <br> Alternate Access Within 1 Mile of Red Hook Station Communities and Collection Box Locations

This map summarizes the geographic distribution of the 16 alternate access sites, blue box locations, and population within the Red Hook ZIP Code.


Source: OIG Countermeasure and Performance Evaluations Team generated using City-Data.com Zip Code and population data.

## Appendix F:

 Management's Comments
## PERFORMANCE AUDITS - Red Hook Station, Triboro District

## April 14, 2015

Laurie Dillard
DIRECTOR, AUDIT OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: City Delivery and Customer Service Operations- Red Hook Station, NY DR-AR-15-DRAFT

In reference to the OIG audit DR-AR-15, management agrees with the findings. As a district, we will collectively address the concerns to mitigate and ensure prompt resolution

Recommendation \# 1
Inform customers of the gopost lockers as an alternative delivery option.
Management Response/Action Plan:
Management agrees with the recommendation.
Triboro District has developed an Every Door Direct Mailing (EDDM) to notify customers of our gopost locations


Target Implementation Date
Completed week of April $6^{\text {th }} 2015$

## Responsible Official

Edward Roggenkamp, Postmaster Brooklyn

## Recommendation \# 2

Continue to pursue centralized parcel operations.

PERFORMANCE AUDITS - Red Hook Station, Triboro District
Management Response/Action Plan:
Management agrees with the recommendation.
Written instructions have been provided to custodians and a checklist created for compliance.


Note: Additional custodial support has been scheduled to improve overall facility appearance.

Target Implementation Date
April 19th 2015

Responsible Officia
Edward Roggenkamp, Postmaster Brooklyn


Contact us via our Hotline and FOIA forms, follow us on social networks, or call our Hotline at 1-888-877-7644 to report fraud, waste or abuse. Stay informed.

1735 North Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209-2020
(703) 248-2100


[^0]:    1 Represents the 7th Congressional District in New York.
    2 The Station is in the Triboro District.
    3 A single mailbox or other place to which mail is delivered.
    4 The U.S. Postal Service offers alternate ways to access postal services at times convenient to customers. Convenient locations include supermarkets, drug stores, convenience stores, and automated teller machines at financial institutions.

[^1]:    5 The Postal Service's Complaint Handling Guidelines require a response to Internet, telephone, and walk-in complaints within 3 business days
    6 The POS survey is a receipt based customer survey generated from POS terminals that provides an invitation for customers to complete an online survey about their retail counter experience.
    7 The Postal Services uses the AMS data to deliver mail to every address in the country. The OIG issued a report on national errors in the AMS data on February 28,2014
    8 AMS errors consist of ZIP Code discrepancies, delivery point sequencing conflicts, duplicate delivery points, overlapping ranges, high-rise addresses improperly coded, AMS errors consist
    9 The Station has 38 city carriers; 25 are regular city carriers and 13 are CCAs.
    10 A noncareer, bargaining unit employee who performs the full range of letter carrier duties.

[^2]:    36 Postal Operations Manual Volume 9, Section 323.3-Residential Collection Boxes.

[^3]:    37 Each route's street time (workhours required to complete street delivery) is established during the annual route review or inspection

