

WASHINGTON

1414 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515-2107
(202) 225-5111
Fax: (202) 225-9322

Committee on Financial Services
Ranking Democratic Member
Subcommittee on Housing
& Insurance

Committee on Transportation &
Infrastructure

Committee on Ethics



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Michael E. Capuano

7th District, Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS

110 First Street
Cambridge, MA 02141-2109
(617) 621-6208
Fax (617) 621-8628

Roxbury Community College
Campus Library
Room 211

Stetson Hall
Room 124
Randolph

August 15, 2017

Tammy L. Whitcomb
Acting Inspector General, United States Postal Service
USPS OIG Headquarters
1735 N. Lynn St. Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Inspector General Whitcomb:

We write today to make you aware of an ongoing concern at the Chelsea, Massachusetts Post Office. We have received several calls from letter carriers at the site who allege unauthorized manipulations in work hours. NALC Boston Branch 34 is actively going through the grievance process in attempts to rectify the situation and recover pay it feels its members are duly owed. However, the seriousness of the allegations are such that we thought your office should be aware of the circumstances.

While reviewing their time sheets, some number of letter carriers at the Chelsea Post Office found they had been put on a personal break, or lunch time, for small time increments, on a number of occasions. Most of the impacted individuals are full time employees, who have an hour of lunch built into their nine hour work day. Thus they were surprised to find several minutes of unpaid leave on their time sheets for times they were either actually working, or would have had no reason to punch out. As noted above, we fully appreciate there is a process in place, which the letter carriers are following, to address their individual concerns. Of course, we fully support that process and do not seek, in any way, to impact it. However, given the number of postal employees affected, coupled with emerging news reports of this practice coming to light in other parts of the country (for example in Richmond, Virginia), we felt it important to bring this matter to your attention. Therefore we respectfully request that the Office of the Inspector General for the United States Postal Service review the facts and determine if further involvement is appropriate.

Our constituents rely on the United States Postal Service every day, and the employees at the Chelsea Post Office and postal employees throughout the Commonwealth work to meet and exceed the heavy demands required of them. We hope you will give our request all due consideration.

Please visit our website to sign up for our newsletter
www.house.gov/capuano



Printed on recycled paper

Thank you for your attention to our request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ray Bennett in Congressman Capuano's Office at 617-621-6208, or Bob Fowkes in Congressman Lynch's office at 617-428-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E. Capuano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Mike Capuano
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen Lynch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" being the most prominent part.

Stephen Lynch
Member of Congress