



Office of Inspector General United States Postal Service

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Discarded Mail at Houston Post Office Leads to Investigation by Office of Inspector General

Houston, TX -- Acting on a call to the Postal Service's Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline, alleging employee misconduct at the Willow Place Station of the Houston, Texas Post Office, OIG Special Agents initiated an investigation on November 1, 2006. The OIG was responding to the report of instances of intentional discarding and delaying of mail by postal personnel.

The investigation revealed that a number of letter carriers were discarding deliverable mail as Undeliverable Bulk Business Mail (UBBM). Carriers at the station were interviewed and the results of the interviews are being furnished to postal management for consideration of any disciplinary action. Egregious cases will be presented to the United States Attorney for possible criminal prosecution. The OIG is aware of the operational needs of the Post Offices and is working with postal management to ensure mail service will not be disrupted.

The subject mail included periodicals and circulars. No political mailings were delayed or discarded. The ongoing investigation is part of the OIG's mission of preventing and detecting fraud, waste and misconduct in the Postal Service and promoting the integrity and efficiency of postal programs. The Postal Service's support was instrumental in this investigative effort.

The majority of postal personnel are dedicated, hard-working public servants whose daily efforts instill trust in America's postal system.