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Grace Meng

Congress of the United States

Sixth District, New York

December 2, 2013

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Mr. Frank J. Calabrese
Manager, Consumer and Industry Contact
Triboro District
1050 Forbell Street
Brooklyn, NY 11256-9621

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

I am writing to express concerns my constituents have raised about the appearance of the Flushing Post Office.

Located at 41-65 Main Street, the Flushing Post Office, officially known as the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Post Office Building, is an iconic, historic building in our community. Flushing Main is the major post office that services our community. Its construction was completed in 1934, and was designed by renowned architect Dwight James Baum and his partner William W. Knowles. It exhibits the best qualities of Colonial Revival architecture such as a symmetrical façade with a central entrance, multi-paned windows, six Ionic columns, and a graceful marble interior. In recognition of its superb merits, the Flushing Post Office was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. In 1986, the building was named after one of my predecessors, Congressman Benjamin Rosenthal, who represented Flushing for 20 years.

Despite its historic significance and importance as a community center, the post office's exterior has fallen into a state of disrepair. The paint is peeling. The steps are filthy and stained. Garbage litters the front. The doors are dull and tarnished. My constituents and I believe that neglect of the post office is unacceptable. It is a symbol of pride for the Flushing community and needs to continuously meet our basic standards for such a building. These are not difficult issues to fix, but the longer they are neglected the more they detract from the beauty and elegance of the Flushing Main Street Post Office.

I hope that you will expeditiously correct the negligence of this important building. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress