



April 6, 2010

The Honorable Shelton "Mac" Watts
Mayor, City of Central
13421 Hooper Road, Suite 8
Central, LA 70818-2900

Dear Mayor Watts:

This is in further response to your January 15 correspondence appealing the decision of the U.S. Postal Service's (USPS) Louisiana District not to realign delivery service territory and have a separate ZIP Code specifically designated for all residents of Central, Louisiana.

In my February 18 correspondence I advised you that appeal of the Louisiana District decision to the Southwest Area office was to determine whether a reasonable means of full or partial accommodation can be identified following the procedures outlined for realignment of ZIP Code boundaries including evaluation of its existing facilities in the area from the standpoint of their ability to absorb any operational changes necessary to accommodate your request.

After a thorough review of the case file and the details of both the Louisiana District and Southwest Area office decisions, it is the final determination of this office to support the denial of your request. ZIP Codes are designed to allow the efficient and effective processing and delivery of the mail. When possible the USPS does strive to coincide with municipal boundaries when establishing and/or extending ZIP Codes. However, in many instances, rapidly expanding communities, facility space and operational efficiency do not allow for ZIP Code boundaries to reflect those of municipalities. In this particular case, incorporating all of the City of Central residents into a separate ZIP Code(s) for the city of Central is not approved.

A reasonable accommodation was made by the Postal Service when Preferred Last Line status was allowed for Central customers in 70770 (Pride), 70791 (Zachary), 70714 (Baker), 70739 (Greenwell Springs), and 70818 (Baton Rouge), to utilize Central, Louisiana in their delivery address. It is the determination of this office that the accommodations extended by the USPS were reasonable and any other changes to the ZIP Codes assigned to residents of Central would not be operationally feasible and would also be cost prohibitive to the Postal Service.

I regret that my response to your ZIP Code request could not be more favorable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Schaefer".

Elizabeth A. Schaefer
Acting Manager
Delivery Operations