



**Town of Cape Carteret
102 Dolphin Street
Cape Carteret, NC 28584
252-393-8483**

May 18, 2010

Senator Jean Preston
1121 Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Preston,

I am emotionally compelled to tell you that I am amazed at the audacity of the Mid-Carolinas District Postal Manager, David C. Fields, Sr. His office took from November, 2009 to May, 2010 to send us and you a response to our inquiry that not only did not address our inquiry, but gave us something we already had!

We had requested by letter, (he would not grant me an appointment or talk to me on the phone) some type of relief to ongoing problems that are created by listing us (the towns of Cape Carteret, Cedar Point, Peletier and Bogue) by zip code as being in Onslow County, NC when we are in Carteret County.

Our suggestion for relief was to either add a zip code number to the Swansboro Post Office showing the four towns as being in Carteret County or, to shift our mail delivery to the Emerald Isle Post Office which is in Carteret County.

What Mr. Fields has given us is permission to use our town names in our address, which we were told we could do a number of years ago. The annoyance is that Mr. Fields knows full well that the town name does nothing. The zip code is the ruling factor.

Clarity Note: In my original correspondence I included Cedar Point, Peletier and Bogue. However, since these towns were not signatories on the correspondence they were not included in the "boundary" survey or in the response correspondence. This was an error on our part.

Additional information given to me by the Post Office, by phone, after the full gamut of inquiry:

(1) Although the postal boundary research in our area had been done before, it was done over again because Congress has dictated that happening if an inquiry such as ours is made. The Post Office "knew" the end result before they started, but they "must follow Congressional dictated procedure." During the survey they never contacted our town; in fact, the town had to constantly seek information as to their progress.

(2) Due to the "short supply of zip code numbers" the Post Office only assigns new zip codes to towns of 25,000 population or larger.

(3) The Post Office cannot assign our delivery to the Emerald Isle Post Office because part of the town of Bogue is delivered by the Newport, Carteret County, Post Office and this would, “cause conflict problems within the Postal System.”

(4) Since our problem does not cross a state line the change isn't justifiable.

(5) The boundary review process was e-mailed to me after the entire process was completed.
(See enclosure)

I hereby apologize for having requested your assistance with such a bureaucratic boondoggle, however I did want you to know some of the details and that the Postal System in actuality did NOTHING.

I am the third mayor in Cape Carteret to address this problem and if a future inquiry happens, your office will be able to respond that it is totally under bureaucratic control and is therefore an “unalterable situation.”

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Ron Harkless
Mayor

Cc: David C. Fields, Sr.
Mid-Carolinas District Postal Manager

DISTRICT MANAGER/LEAD EXECUTIVE
MID-CAROLINAS DISTRICT



May 7, 2010

Ronald Harkless
Mayor
102 Dolphin Street
Cape Carteret, NC 28584-9242

Dear Mayor Harkless:

This is a follow up to your letter dated October 8, 2009 regarding a ZIP Code for the Town of Cape Carteret, NC. We have completed our ZIP Code boundary review process requested for your community. By working with county officials we have clearly defined the boundaries of your community. We estimate there are 1,533 customer addresses currently within the town limits.

- * Recent updates to our automation equipment and ZIP Code data base will enable customers to use Cape Carteret as the last line of their mailing address. As a result, the Postal Service will allow modifications to the last line of address for the 1,533 addresses above currently using Swansboro as their mailing address to begin to use **Cape Carteret, NC 28584** as their last line address effective July 1, 2010.

I have asked Mr. John Hill to meet with you to better explain this change and to answer any questions you may have. After your meeting, all affected customers will be notified in writing with a letter similar to the attached to advise them of the change. We will also provide a media release to the community. Mr. Hill will be contacting you in the near future to arrange a time for such a meeting.

This change will satisfy the needs of your community in maintaining identity while serving our needs for prompt, accurate, and efficient delivery of the mail. Thank you for the opportunity to respond. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Mr. John Hill at (704)-424-4428.

Sincerely,

David C. Fields, Sr.

cc: Congressman Walter B. Jones
Governor Beverly R. Perdue
Senator Jean Preston
Senator Kay Hagan
Representative Pat McElraft

2901 SCOTT FUTRELL DRIVE
CHARLOTTE NC 28228-9980
704-424-4400
FAX: 704-424-4489

(4 towns)

- I'm Disappointed,
it appears that no one ever read our correspondence.
- maintaining community "identity"
has never been our request.
- business and personal problems and
incorrectly placed county taxes have
been ongoing problems.