

# Fitzsimons Slated to Close Will be Replaced by Contract Station

According to a press release, dated June 5, 2009, the United States Postal Service is opening a Contract Postal Unit ( CPU ) at the University of Colorado Denver Campus in Aurora, sometime in August 2009. This appears to represent a replacement facility for the decades-old Fitzsimons Station Post Office.

While the release seems to trumpet the convenience to workers, patients and nearby residents, it fails to note that the same convenience has been available for many decades at the existing Fitzsimons site.

## Limited Services

In addition, it fails to note that not all currently available products and services will be available at the new office. It appears probable that Post Office box service, among many others, will not be offered.

## Amateur Employees

Additionally, rather than well-trained, professional Postal employees, the newer office will probably rely on short-term part-time students and book store casual help, who have not spent more than a few hours learning the myriad mailing requirements that a career employee must master.

## APWU Reaction

When asked her reaction to the news that management at the Postal Service in Aurora will be opening the new CPU, Aurora Local APWU president Shelly Lucido said "They ain't talking to me". She went on to say that she had received the information from a local window clerk, who had received it in response to a question sent to Congressman Ed Perlmutter.

## CPU Future "iffy"

The replacement of Post Offices by Contract Postal Units appears to be the wave of the foreseeable future, in spite of their rather spotty success/failure rate. Within the past seven years or so, there have been at least 6 CPUs in the city of Aurora. Today, not including the latest Fitzsimons facility, there are only 3 remaining, with reports indicating that the future of two are "iffy". There has been nothing said about what might happen if this new location is not successful.

## USPS -

### More Neighborhood Locations

It seems ironic that as competitors UPS and FedEx have spent billions of dollars buying up 'brick and mortar' locations ( MailBoxes, Etc, and Kinkos respectively ), the Postal Service is paring back what many will see as their prime competitive advantage, their multiple convenient neighborhood locations.

## Keep Fitzsimons Open

There still might be time to get the Postal Service to reconsider this decision. Write a letter to the local Postmaster, the Vice President of Area Operations and Congressman Ed Perlmutter, asking why this poorly thought-out change is necessary.

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**Sylvester Black**  
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