

To the Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for the July 15, 2022 hearing: "Dangerous Heat: The Effects of Hot Vehicles on USPS Operations in Arizona."

Good morning, Chair Senator Sinema, and esteemed guests.

Thank you for inviting me here to testify regarding such an important topic regarding "Dangerous Heat".

My name is Jeff Clark, President of the Arizona State Association of Letter Carriers, elected by the delegates of the Arizona National Association of Letter Carriers union since April 28, 2013 and every two years since to represent the 5000 women and men who deliver mail in the state of Arizona. I myself a Phoenix Arizona United States Postal Service Letter Carrier from April 14, 1984 until October 31, 2020. That is 36 years 6 months and 16 days. I was 63 years old when I retired from the United States Postal Service, and because of what I am testifying here today are some of the factors why I retired 2 years sooner than expected. When I was hired in April 1984, the start time for Letter Carriers in Phoenix Arizona was 6am to 2:30pm, this start time held true for decades until Postal Management changed it to 8:00am to 4:30pm. The 6am schedule was one of common sense to get you to the streets sooner before the temperatures rose to ridiculous heights. I agree the schedule was different back in the early days of my career, letter carriers put their mail in order back then called "casing", and a normal day of 3 hours in the Post Office (Station) "casing", and 5 hours on the street delivering mail. Present day schedule of approximately 1 hour in the Post Offices getting the mail ready and 7 hours delivering on the street. But what is realistically happening to the Letter Carriers of Phoenix in regards to their time in the heat and on the streets, even if you just want to work 8 hours a day, the Letter Carriers are being given 2, and sometimes 4 hours of additional work assigned from other postal route assignments. It could be understandable, considering July 5, 2022, a day after a holiday, everyone still scheduled to start at 8:00am even under HEAT WARNINGS IN EFFECT, and majority of Letter Carriers working until 9PM, and last one off the clock at 11:20pm! This kind of scheduling is still happening on so called light days of mail on Saturdays, and an average workweek of 60 hours. As we wait for the arrival of the "Next Generation Delivery Vehicle (NGDV)", I hope and pray we can come to an understanding of how hot it gets in Phoenix, Arizona, and what we all can do to help the Letter Carriers working in it! I worked June 26, 1990 delivering mail when the temperature reached 122 degrees, I received phone calls from family watching CNN if that was me in the hospital for heat stroke, it was a carrier from my station, and another one collapsed at the station. Once again, in regards to heat in Arizona, it seems it was 3 months Hot and 9 months bearable, but somehow the schedule of months have reversed to 9 months Hot and 3 months bearable. God Willing, with the testimony here today, I hope everyone participating can come up to a justifiable solutions and suggestions to the heat.

In conclusion, the construction trades of Arizona, generally start when the sun rises. Since my hiring on April 14, 1984, knowing my past work history and current involvement interviewing current and past Letter Carriers regarding Heat Issues, the number one topic constantly mentioned was a 6:00 AM start time.

Thank You Chair Senator Sinema, the Senators and Staff of the Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs regarding "Dangerous Heat: The Effects of Hot Vehicles on USPS Operations in Arizona", USPS District Manager John Morgan, The United States Postal Service Management and Employees, National Association of Letter Carriers National President Fredric Rolando, NALC Executive

Vice President Brian Renfroe, NALC Eddie Davidson, Assistant to the National President, NALC Kori Blaylock Keller, NALC Phoenix Branch #576 President Cynthia Staley, Jimmy Salmon, National Association of Postal Supervisors, Anthony Papian, Legislative Aide, HSGAC, Erin Schulte, Legislative Aide, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management

Sincerely,

Jeff Clark

President, Arizona State Association of Letter Carriers/NALC/AFL-CIO

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