

From: Fordham, Bridget B - Washington, DC
Sent: Wed, 21 Dec 2022 16:14:52 +0000
To: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN; Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN; Healy, Abigail K - Washington, DC; Bentley, Daniel M - Washington, DC
Subject: For your records; No response required.
Attachments: 636041 Incoming Inquiry.pdf, 636041 Final Case Response BCC.pdf

Government Relations is providing you a copy of the attached congressional inquiry and response for your records. If this no longer falls in your area of responsibility, please kindly share with the appropriate person.

Bridget Fordham
Government Relations Correspondence
U.S. Postal Service Headquarters



Legal Issues

RECEIVED

DEC 05 2022

Fordham, Bridget B - Washington, DC

From: Chang, Shaun K - Washington, DC
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 1:22 PM
To: _GR Incoming
Cc: Williams, Lisa M - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Curtis Olafson
Attachments: Mr. Olafson's email to Shari Buck.docx; 3602 FIN STATEMENT Curtis Olafson.pdf; Curtis Olafson.pdf; RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo; FW: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Please control this case. Lisa, we can talk about this one the next time you're in the office. The writer should reach out to Mark Janda in MN-ND District and Stan Franke for research, and Legal and Political/Election mail personnel should review the draft response.

Thanks,

Shaun K. Chang
Senior Government Relations Representative
United States Postal Service



<https://www.usps.com/>



The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

From: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2022 9:53 AM
To: Chang, Shaun K - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Cc: Marshall, Adrienne E - Washington, DC [REDACTED] Bentley, Daniel M - Washington, DC
Subject: FW: Curtis Olafson

GM Shaun. I'm going to need your help on this one. We have provided a response to the customer but now MN-ND has a Congressional that needs to be responded to on this issue. Since this is a sensitive election mail related inquiry, I need to know how to respond. They are looking for a more detailed response in writing. Please advise...thanks.

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2022 7:48 PM
To: Marshall, Adrienne E - Washington, DC [REDACTED] Bentley, Daniel M - Washington, DC
[REDACTED] Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Curtis Olafson

Rod has confirmed to me that all responses below are correct and appropriate. The response to the customer as well as their awareness on the escalation to the Senate office. The only written response is the one given.

Further action is not a Corp Comm function.

CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF PERSONAL RECORDS BY EXECUTIVE AGENCIES
U.S. SENATOR JOHN HOEVEN

Name of Agency: _____ Date: 11/22/2022

I have sought assistance from Senator John Hoeven on a matter that may require the release of information maintained by your agency, and which you may be prohibited from disseminating under the Privacy Act of 1974.

I hereby authorize you to release all relevant portions of my records or to discuss problems involved in this case with Senator Hoeven or any other authorized member of his staff until this matter is resolved.

Claimant's name (print): Curtis Olafson Date of Birth: 12/07/1952

Address: 2620 41st St S #309, Fargo ND 58104

Home Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: 701-265-2356

E-mail address: curtis@olafson4nd.com

Social Security #: [REDACTED]

Agency Case # (if applicable): _____

Signature of Claimant: *Curtis Olafson*

Have you contacted another congressional office regarding this issue? YES NO _____

If so, which office? Senator Cramer Congressman Armstrong _____

Do you grant Senator Hoeven's office permission to contact other Congressional offices to your inquiry?

YES NO _____

Please return this form to:

U.S. Senator John Hoeven
102 North 4th Street, Room 108
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Phone: 701-746-8972
Fax: 701-746-5613

Sent from my iPhone.

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC" [REDACTED]
Date: November 23, 2022 at 2:49:21 PM EST
To: "Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI" [REDACTED]
Cc: "Marshall, Adrienne E - Washington, DC" [REDACTED] "Bentley, Daniel M - Washington, DC" [REDACTED] "Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL" [REDACTED] "Sallay, Rod (HQ) - Washington, DC" [REDACTED] "Chang, Shaun K - Washington, DC" [REDACTED] "Gordon, Michael J - Washington, DC" [REDACTED]
Subject: re: Curtis Olafson

Since he has escalated to a Member of Congress, we need GR to step in. I have cc'd all the appropriate folks.

Rod: Stan says the OIG has also confirmed to the customer that there was no wrong-doing.

Sent from my iPhone.

On Nov 23, 2022, at 2:30 PM, Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED] wrote:

Team,

We have a unique situation with this one. The customer keeps advocating for a written response as to what happened with this mailing. We provided the response but he has escalated this up to the Congressman's Office. Please advise on how you would like us to proceed.

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Cc: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED] Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

Stan:

We just got a Congressional from the gentleman who lost the election. Please have Legal take a look and advise on a response.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN" [REDACTED]
Date: November 22, 2022 at 4:48:27 PM CST
To: "Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN" [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

She also submitted this into the portal...

From: Buck, Shari (Hoeven) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

I just submitted this inquiry to you.

Have a great Thanksgiving

Shari L Buck
US Senator John Hoeven
Western Regional Director



Fordham, Bridget B - Washington, DC

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI; Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
Cc: Sallay, Rod (HQ) - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

From: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:39 AM
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]> Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

We made the decision not to respond to the customer again in writing. The senators office now inquired about the issue. We will continue to use the prepared statement. Thanks for the feedback.

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

I do recall us once or twice saying "we regret."
But that customer wasn't quite so intent on publicizing and it was expressed privately.
Have a good evening. Back to "feet up."

From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 4:43 PM
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]> Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Marti, good advice to stick with the already approved statement. Thanks.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area



Phone: (630) 539-6555



From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:42 PM

To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Stan,

I strongly recommend that you not use either statement previously sent but stand on this one, please? He wants a written statement so he can show it to the media. Please provide him with this:

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail.

Regarding the customer's political mailing, Postal Management researched to find that the candidate's Political Mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo.

Further information about USPS Political Mail services and processes may be found here on our website: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm> "

Election Mail assumes all statements provided to customers end up in the media. We have a very strong policy that we do NOT say we are sorry. We have NEVER done it in the three years I've been working with them. I suggest you stick with the statement above. Provide a few niceties, like "Hello Mr. Olafson" and "Wishing you a good holiday season," but I would also skip that "let me know if I can be of further assistance" because the door on this issue is NOT open.

Marti

From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 4:26 PM

To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]; Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Regarding this statement -- is this still within our mailing standards for Marketing mail? If yes, then I would not apologize but offer information about Marketing mail and delivery standards.

The Mixed AADC tray, though, would have been opened and the pieces therein sorted locally with other mail and sent to Fargo through the mailstream from Indiana, which is a longer process.

Tim Ratliff

Manager, Strategic Communications

Central Area

Phone: (630) 539-6555

From: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:19 PM

To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]; Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Mark reached out to the customer. The customer has asked for a written response. Since this is tied into a media reply, are we ok with responding to the customer with the proposed response below or do we avoid a written response all together?

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Subject: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Stan:

This is the email I propose we send to Mr. Olafson to explain his mailing not arriving before the election in its entirety in Fargo, ND. Let me know.

Mr. Olafson:

Again, I apologize that the mailing submitted on your behalf did not meet your timeline for delivery in your area.

As I stated on the phone, this was a Marketing Mail shipment inducted in Batesville, Indiana on 10/29.

There were 4 trays. 2 were for ZIP Code 58104, 1 for ZIP Code 58103 and the final tray was a Mixed AADC tray with a variety of ZIP Codes in it. As I explained, complete trays to 5-digit ZIP Codes are shipped unopened to the postal facility responsible for final sortation before delivery. That would have been the case for the trays to 58104 and 58103. This is why the pieces in those trays appeared shortly after induction in Indiana.

The Mixed AADC tray, though, would have been opened and the pieces therein sorted locally with other mail and sent to Fargo through the mailstream from Indiana, which is a longer process.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Mark Janda
Customer Relations Manager, Minnesota-North Dakota District
(612) 349-4992

Fordham, Bridget B - Washington, DC

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 12:57 PM
To: Chang, Shaun K - Washington, DC
Cc: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI
Subject: FW: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Mark Janda
(612) 349-4992

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Subject: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Stan:

This is the email I propose we send to Mr. Olafson to explain his mailing not arriving before the election in its entirety in Fargo, ND. Let me know.

Mr. Olafson:

Again, I apologize that the mailing submitted on your behalf did not meet your timeline for delivery in your area.

As I stated on the phone, this was a Marketing Mail shipment inducted in Batesville, Indiana on 10/29.

There were 4 trays. 2 were for ZIP Code 58104, 1 for ZIP Code 58103 and the final tray was a Mixed AADC tray with a variety of ZIP Codes in it. As I explained, complete trays to 5-digit ZIP Codes are shipped unopened to the postal facility responsible for final sortation before delivery. That would have been the case for the trays to 58104 and 58103. This is why the pieces in those trays appeared shortly after induction in Indiana.

The Mixed AADC tray, though, would have been opened and the pieces therein sorted locally with other mail and sent to Fargo through the mailstream from Indiana, which is a longer process.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Mark Janda
Customer Relations Manager, Minnesota-North Dakota District
(612) 349-4992

Postage Statement—USPS Marketing Mail

Transaction Number: 202229914064723 M1 CAPS / EPS Transaction Number: 234838408 Postage Statement Number: 510511275

Mailing Group	Mailing Group ID 381134586	Mailing Job Number 00005735	Open Date 10-26-2022
	Preparer THE OCCASIONS GROUP	Origin Mail.dat	Close Date
	Job Description Storytellers ND-HD10 - Drop 1		

Mailer	Permit Holder's Name and Address and Email Address, if Any TCND 2300 MAIN ST LINO LAKES, MN 55038-9761 Contact Name: TONY SCHULTE (651)846-3179 aschulte@curtis1000.com CAPS Customer Ref. No: STAF496 CRID: 27671985	Name and Address of Mailing Agent (If other than permit holder) THE OCCASIONS GROUP 957 N MERIDIAN ST SUNMAN, IN 47041-7771 CRID: 25528160	Name and Address of Individual or Organization for Which Mailing is Prepared (If other than permit holder) STORY TELLERS LLC 1568 FOXLAND BLVD GALLATIN, TN 37066-3491 CRID: 29394422
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Mailing	Post Office of Mailing Post Office Batesville IN 47006-9998	Processing Category Flats	Mailer's Mailing Date 10/29/22	Federal Agency Cost Code	Statement Seq. No.	No. & Type of Containers Sacks: 4 1 ft. Letter Trays: 0 2 ft. Letter Trays: 0 EMM Letter Trays: 0 Flat Trays: 0 Pallets: 1 Other: 0
	Type of Postage Permit Imprint		SSF Transaction ID #		Total # of Pieces in Mailing 882	
	Permit # 109	For Mail Enclosed Within Another Class <input type="checkbox"/> Bound Printed Matter <input type="checkbox"/> Library Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Periodicals <input type="checkbox"/> Media Mail	Weight of a Single Piece 0.0370 lbs.	Combined Mailing	Total Weight 32.6340 lbs.	
	For Automation Rate Pieces, Enter Date of Address Matching and Coding 10/25/22	For Carrier Route Pieces, Enter Date of Address Matching and Coding 10/25/22	For Carrier Route Pieces, Enter Date of Carrier Route Sequencing _ / _ / _	For Pieces Bearing a Simplified Address Enter Date of Delivery Statistics File or Alternative Method _ / _ / _		
Move Update Method: NCOALink						
This is a Political Campaign Mailing Yes		This is Official Election Mail No		<input type="checkbox"/> Letter-size or flat mailpiece contains DVD/CD or other disc.		

Postage	Parts Completed E, F		
	Subtotal Postage (Add parts totals)	\$373.94	
	Complete if the mailing includes pieces bearing metered/PC Postage or precanceled stamps. Rate at Which Postage Affixed (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Lowest <input type="checkbox"/> Neither	_____ pcs. x \$ _____ = Postage Affixed	\$0.00
	Incentive/Discount Flat Dollar Amount		\$-2.45
	Fee		\$0.00
	Net Postage Due		\$373.94
For USPS Use Only: Additional Postage Payment (State reason)			
Total USPS Adjusted Postage		\$373.94	

Certification
Incentive/Discount Claimed: N/A Type of Fee: N/A
The mailer certifies acceptance of liability for and agreement to pay any revenue deficiencies assessed on this mailing, subject to appeal. If an agent certifies that he or she is authorized on behalf of the mailer then that mailer is bound by the certification and agrees to pay any deficiencies. In addition, agents may be liable for any deficiencies resulting from matters within their responsibility, knowledge, or control. The mailer hereby certifies that all information furnished on this form is accurate, truthful, and complete; that the mail and the supporting documentation comply with all postal standards and that the mailing qualifies for the prices and fees claimed; and that the mailing does not contain any matter prohibited by law or postal regulation. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits information requested on this form may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties, including fines and imprisonment.
Privacy Notice: For information regarding our Privacy Policy visit www.usps.com

Nonautomation Flats

Flats 4 oz (0.25 lbs) or less

Entry	Price Category	Price	No. of Pieces	Subtotal Postage	Discount Total	Fee Total	Total Postage
E4	None Mixed ADC	\$0.881	66	\$58.1460	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	\$58.1460
E23	Part E Total (Add lines E1 - E22)						\$58.1460

Part F

Carrier Route Flats

Flats 4 oz (0.25 lbs) or less

Entry	Price Category	Price	No. of Pieces	Subtotal Postage	Discount Total**	Fee Total	Total Postage
F4	None Basic	\$0.390	816	\$318.2400	\$-2.4480	\$0.0000	\$315.7920
F45	Part F Subtotal (Add lines F1 - F44)						\$315.7920
F50	Containerization Discount Total (Add lines F46 -- F49)						\$0.0000
F51	Part F Total (Line F45 minus Line F50)						\$315.7920

Full Service Intelligent Mail Option

F52	DISPLAY ONLY Flats - Number of Pieces that Comply 816.0 x 0.003 =						\$2.4480
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* Full Service Intelligent Mail Option not available

** May contain both Full Service Intelligent Mail and other discounts

Hello Shari,

Sorry it took me this long to get back to you. People that received them late: Myself, Red River Zoo, Steve Swiontek, Ryan Younggren and many others. The Prairiewood branch manager told both Steve Swiontek and me that about 260-280 mailers came to their branch on the morning of Nov. 10th and were delivered out that day. The shipment was mailed in Indiana on Oct 29th to be delivered here in D10 the week of "early voting" here in Cass County which ran from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4th. The attached USPS file has a lot of info for you. That was forwarded to me by Dawson Schefter, our local consultant who worked with a company called "Storytellers" which is based in Gallatin, TN. Dawson also told me that the company shipped 35 million mailers this election cycle and the only other issue they had was where a postal worker in California withheld mailers for political reasons. Perhaps that happened here as well. It certainly can't be ruled out, can it?

I received a call last Wednesday Nov 16th from Mark Yonda (sp?) from Minneapolis (I believe), who is a "customer service specialist for MN and ND" who assured me that he would send me a shipping document describing where everything had been. I have not heard back from him since. Also, he told me that the shipment was comprised of "3 full trays of mailers and one split tray." That does not match the information on the attached USPS document (which shows 0 trays) nor does it comport with the total number of mailers shipped (882) and the 260-280 that were delivered to Prairiewood on the morning of Nov. 10th. The Prairiewood branch manager and Mr. Yonda are no longer accepting my calls despite the fact that I have been polite and pleasant with them. Mr. Yonda called from 612-349-4992 at 2:17 PM on Nov. 16th, no doubt prompted by all the media attention this was directing at the USPS.

You are likely well aware of the fact that USPS has a policy manual specific to election related mail and that it specifies that election mail needs to be cleared from every PS facility every day, and it includes trailers, vehicles and storage areas. Obviously, that policy manual was not followed. For your convenience, it is attached if you don't have it handy. I also want to direct your attention to this response from the spokesman for the USPS published in the Forum on Nov. 15th: "In response to the criticism, the U.S. Postal Service offered this statement from spokesman Desi Abdul-Razzaaq.

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail," Abdul-Razzaaq said.

"Regarding the customer's political mailing, postal management researched to find that the candidate's political mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo," Abdul-Razzaaq added."

Note how carefully that is worded. They are trying to make it look like I am lying. They are deflecting, denying the truth, and stonewalling. That statement obfuscates the fact that a significant part of the shipment was delayed in its delivery (for reasons they have yet to explain) until 2 days AFTER the election.

This whole incident is very significant in light of the fact that I lost the election by 38 votes.

Please reply with any questions you might have.



December 21, 2022

The Honorable John Hoeven
United States Senate
204 North Main Street, #516
Watford City, ND 58854-0001

Dear Senator Hoeven:

This responds to your recent inquiry on behalf of Mr. Curtis Olafson of Fargo, regarding mail delivery service.

I understand your interest in assisting Mr. Olafson with his concerns. Please know that we always attempt to deliver every piece of mail in a timely, accurate, and efficient manner. There are different variables that may cause an item not to reach its destination by its expected delivery date.

For assistance, we contacted Minnesota-North Dakota District officials, who report that Mr. Olafson's mailing was shipped using our Marketing Mail Service, and was accepted at our Batesville, Indiana, facility on October 29. We were advised that his mailing was comprised of four sacks, three of which were destined to specific, individual ZIP Codes and were delivered prior to Election Day. The fourth sack included mailings destined to various ZIP Codes, which takes longer to process.

While we were unable to determine a specific cause for the delivery delay of the fourth sack, it is important to note that Marketing Mail receives deferred handling, which increases efficient utilization of our employees and equipment. As a result, Marketing Mail has lower costs, but can also have longer delivery times. It is also important to explain the Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of Marketing Mail within a specified time.

While I recognize Mr. Olafson may be dissatisfied with this response, it accurately reflects the Postal Service's policy and position in this matter. If I can be of assistance in other postal matters, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Gordon".

Michael J. Gordon
Director, Government Liaison

bcc:

ANTHONY C WILLIAMS
DISTRICT MANAGER
MINNESOTA-NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT



MARK JANDA
CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGER
MINNESOTA-NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT



ABIGAIL HEALY
ATTORNEY
LEGAL STRATEGY



DANIEL BENTLEY
ELECTION & GOVERNMENT MAIL PROGRAMS MANAGER



Case ID :636041
Case Type :LEGAL ISSUES
Due Date :2022-12-19
Sign Code :40
JPC 12142022
SLP 12/14/2022
SKC12212022
MJG 12/21/2022
BBF 12/21/2022

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wed, 16 Nov 2022 17:02:41 +0000
To: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

Just the media.

*Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,
Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts*



From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 11:01 AM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

Thanks. Did you talk directly to Mr. Olafson or just the station?

Mark Janda
(612) 349-4992

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:58 AM
To: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

FYI,

From: Ryan Janke [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Thank you for both responses.
Ryan

On Wed, Nov 16, 2022 at 10:22 AM Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning Mr. Janke,

USPS respectfully declines your interview request. At this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

Respectfully,

Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,

Strategic Communications

USPS Corporate Communications

w(612) 349-4717 [REDACTED]

Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7:51 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: KFGO News inquiry

Good morning Mr. Janke,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm the USPS spokesperson for North Dakota, Desai Abdul-Razzaaq.

I understand that you have attempted to contact Postal Management in Fargo concerning the claims of State Senate candidate Curtis Olafson. Please reference the official statement below concerning this matter.

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail.

Regarding the customer's political mailing, Postal Management researched to find that the candidate's Political Mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo.

Further information about USPS Political Mail services and processes may be found here on our website: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm>."

Respectfully,

Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,

Strategic Communications

USPS Corporate Communications

w(612) 349-4717 [REDACTED]

Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Clark, Jonathan P - Washington, DC
Sent: Fri, 9 Dec 2022 15:02:16 +0000
To: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: Congressional Inquiry regarding Mr. Curtis Olafson (Case 636041)
Attachments: 20221206-084750618287.pdf

Good morning Mark,

I am researching this inquiry and would like to discuss it with you. Please let me know when you have time to talk.

Thanks.

Jonathan P. Clark
Government Relations Correspondence Analyst (Editor)
U.S. Postal Service Headquarters



From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wed, 16 Nov 2022 17:03:24 +0000
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

OK. Thanks again.

Mark Janda
(612) 349-4992

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

Just the media.

Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,
Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 11:01 AM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

Thanks. Did you talk directly to Mr. Olafson or just the station?

Mark Janda
(612) 349-4992

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:58 AM
To: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

FYI,

From: Ryan Janke [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:28 AM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Thank you for both responses.
Ryan

On Wed, Nov 16, 2022 at 10:22 AM Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning Mr. Janke,
USPS respectfully declines your interview request. At this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

Respectfully,

Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,

Strategic Communications

USPS Corporate Communications

w(612) 349-4717 [REDACTED]

Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Good morning Mr. Janke,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm the USPS spokesperson for North Dakota, Desai Abdul-Razzaaq.

I understand that you have attempted to contact Postal Management in Fargo concerning the claims of State Senate candidate Curtis Olafson. Please reference the official statement below concerning this matter.

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail.

Regarding the customer's political mailing, Postal Management researched to find that the candidate's Political Mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo.

Further information about USPS Political Mail services and processes may be found here on our website: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm>."

Respectfully,

Desai Abdul-Razzaaq.

Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 22 Nov 2022 16:54:34 -0600
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI
Cc: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson
Attachments: Mr. Olafson's email to Shari Buck.docx, 3602 FIN STATEMENT Curtis Olafson.pdf, Curtis Olafson.pdf

Stan:

We just got a Congressional from the gentleman who lost the election. Please have Legal take a look and advise on a response.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN" <[REDACTED]>
Date: November 22, 2022 at 4:48:27 PM CST
To: "Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

She also submitted this into the portal...

From: Buck, Shari (Hoeven) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

I just submitted this inquiry to you.

Have a great Thanksgiving

Shari L Buck
US Senator John Hoeven
Western Regional Director
[REDACTED]

Hello Shari,

Sorry it took me this long to get back to you. People that received them late: Myself, Red River Zoo, Steve Swiontek, Ryan Younggren and many others. The Prairiewood branch manager told both Steve Swiontek and me that about 260-280 mailers came to their branch on the morning of Nov. 10th and were delivered out that day. The shipment was mailed in Indiana on Oct 29th to be delivered here in D10 the week of "early voting" here in Cass County which ran from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4th. The attached USPS file has a lot of info for you. That was forwarded to me by Dawson Scheffer, our local consultant who worked with a company called "Storytellers" which is based in Gallatin, TN. Dawson also told me that the company shipped 35 million mailers this election cycle and the only other issue they had was where a postal worker in California withheld mailers for political reasons. Perhaps that happened here as well. It certainly can't be ruled out, can it?

I received a call last Wednesday Nov 16th from Mark Yonda (sp?) from Minneapolis (I believe), who is a "customer service specialist for MN and ND" who assured me that he would send me a shipping document describing where everything had been. I have not heard back from him since. Also, he told me that the shipment was comprised of "3 full trays of mailers and one split tray." That does not match the information on the attached USPS document (which shows 0 trays) nor does it comport with the total number of mailers shipped (882) and the 260-280 that were delivered to Prairiewood on the morning of Nov. 10th. The Prairiewood branch manager and Mr. Yonda are no longer accepting my calls despite the fact that I have been polite and pleasant with them. Mr. Yonda called from 612-349-4992 at 2:17 PM on Nov. 16th, no doubt prompted by all the media attention this was directing at the USPS.

You are likely well aware of the fact that USPS has a policy manual specific to election related mail and that it specifies that election mail needs to be cleared from every PS facility every day, and it includes trailers, vehicles and storage areas. Obviously, that policy manual was not followed. For your convenience, it is attached if you don't have it handy. I also want to direct your attention to this response from the spokesman for the USPS published in the Forum on Nov. 15th: **"In response to the criticism, the U.S. Postal Service offered this statement from spokesman Desi Abdul-Razzaaq.**

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail," Abdul-Razzaaq said.

"Regarding the customer's political mailing, postal management researched to find that the candidate's political mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo," Abdul-Razzaaq added."

Note how carefully that is worded. They are trying to make it look like I am lying. They are deflecting, denying the truth, and stonewalling. That statement obfuscates the fact that a significant part of the shipment was delayed in its delivery (for reasons they have yet to explain) until 2 days **AFTER** the election.

This whole incident is very significant in light of the fact that I lost the election by 38 votes.

Please reply with any questions you might have.

Postage Statement—USPS Marketing Mail

Transaction Number: 202229914064723 M1	CAPS / EPS Transaction Number: 234838408	Postage Statement Number: 510511275
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Mailing Group	Mailing Group ID 381134586	Mailing Job Number 00005735	Open Date 10-26-2022
	Preparer THE OCCASIONS GROUP	Origin Mail.dat	Close Date
Job Description Storytellers ND-HD10 - Drop 1			

Mailer	Permit Holder's Name and Address and Email Address, if Any TCND 2300 MAIN ST LINO LAKES, MN 55038-9761 Contact Name: TONY SCHULTE (651)846-3179 aschulte@curtis1000.com CAPS Customer Ref. No: STAF496 CRID: 27671985	Name and Address of Mailing Agent (If other than permit holder) THE OCCASIONS GROUP 957 N MERIDIAN ST SUNMAN, IN 47041-7771 CRID: 25528160	Name and Address of Individual or Organization for Which Mailing is Prepared (If other than permit holder) STORY TELLERS LLC 1568 FOXLAND BLVD GALLATIN, TN 37066-3491 CRID: 29394422
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Mailing	Post Office of Mailing Post Office Batesville IN 47006-9998	Processing Category Flats	Mailer's Mailing Date 10/29/22	Federal Agency Cost Code	Statement Seq. No.	No. & Type of Containers Sacks: 4 1 ft. Letter Trays: 0 2 ft. Letter Trays: 0 EMM Letter Trays: 0 Flat Trays: 0 Pallets: 1 Other: 0	
	Type of Postage Permit Imprint	SSF Transaction ID #	Total # of Pieces in Mailing 882	Weight of a Single Piece 0.0370 lbs.	Combined Mailing		Total Weight 32.6340 lbs.
	Permit # 109	For Mail Enclosed Within Another Class <input type="checkbox"/> Bound Printed Matter <input type="checkbox"/> Library Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Periodicals <input type="checkbox"/> Media Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> Mailpiece is a product sample. _____ % Samples				
	For Automation Rate Pieces, Enter Date of Address Matching and Coding 10/25/22	For Carrier Route Pieces, Enter Date of Address Matching and Coding 10/25/22	For Carrier Route Pieces, Enter Date of Carrier Route Sequencing ____/____/____	For Pieces Bearing a Simplified Address Enter Date of Delivery Statistics File or Alternative Method ____/____/____			
	Move Update Method: NCOALink						
	This is a Political Campaign Mailing Yes		This is Official Election Mail No		<input type="checkbox"/> Letter-size or flat mailpiece contains DVD/CD or other disc.		

Postage	Parts Completed E, F		
	Subtotal Postage (Add parts totals)	\$373.94	
	Complete if the mailing includes pieces bearing metered/PC Postage or precanceled stamps. Rate at Which Postage Affixed (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Correct <input type="checkbox"/> Lowest <input type="checkbox"/> Neither	_____ pcs. x \$ _____ = Postage Affixed	\$0.000
	Incentive/Discount Flat Dollar Amount	\$-2.45	
	Fee _____	\$0.00	
	Net Postage Due	\$373.94	
	Total USPS Adjusted Postage	\$373.94	

Certification	Incentive/Discount Claimed: N/A Type of Fee: N/A
	The mailer certifies acceptance of liability for and agreement to pay any revenue deficiencies assessed on this mailing, subject to appeal. If an agent certifies that he or she is authorized on behalf of the mailer then that mailer is bound by the certification and agrees to pay any deficiencies. In addition, agents may be liable for any deficiencies resulting from matters within their responsibility, knowledge, or control. The mailer hereby certifies that all information furnished on this form is accurate, truthful, and complete; that the mail and the supporting documentation comply with all postal standards and that the mailing qualifies for the prices and fees claimed; and that the mailing does not contain any matter prohibited by law or postal regulation. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits information requested on this form may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties, including fines and imprisonment. Privacy Notice: For information regarding our Privacy Policy visit www.usps.com

This postage statement was verified and accepted under the PostalOne! program. No postal signature or round stamp is required.

Part E

Nonautomation Flats

Flats 4 oz (0.25 lbs) or less

Entry	Price	Price	No. of Pieces	Subtotal Postage	Discount Total	Fee Total	Total Postage	
Category								
E4	None	Mixed ADC	\$0.881	66	\$58.1460	\$0.0000	\$0.0000	\$58.1460
E23	Part E Total (Add lines E1 - E22)						\$58.1460	

Part F

Carrier Route Flats

Flats 4 oz (0.25 lbs) or less

Entry	Price	Price	No. of Pieces	Subtotal Postage	Discount Total**	Fee Total	Total Postage	
Category								
F4	None	Basic	\$0.390	816	\$318.2400	\$-2.4480	\$0.0000	\$315.7920
F45	Part F Subtotal (Add lines F1 - F44)						\$315.7920	
F50	Containerization Discount Total (Add lines F46 — F49)						\$0.0000	
F51	Part F Total (Line F45 minus Line F50)						\$315.7920	

Full Service Intelligent Mail Option

F52	DISPLAY ONLY Flats - Number of Pieces that Comply 816.0 x 0.003 =						\$2.4480
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* Full Service Intelligent Mail Option not available

** May contain both Full Service Intelligent Mail and other discounts

This postage statement was verified and accepted under the PostalOne! program. No postal signature or round stamp is required.

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Tue, 22 Nov 2022 22:54:52 +0000
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI
Cc: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson
Attachments: Mr. Olafson's email to Shari Buck.docx, 3602 FIN STATEMENT Curtis Olafson.pdf, Curtis Olafson.pdf

Stan:

We just got a Congressional from the gentleman who lost the election. Please have Legal take a look and advise on a response.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN" [REDACTED]
Date: November 22, 2022 at 4:48:27 PM CST
To: "Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN" <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

She also submitted this into the portal...

From: Buck, Shari (Hoeven) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 4:34 PM
To: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

I just submitted this inquiry to you.

Have a great Thanksgiving

Shari L Buck
US Senator John Hoeven
Western Regional Director



From: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI
Sent: Wed, 16 Nov 2022 14:33:28 +0000
To: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

Good morning Mark. The below response was approved to release to the media. Please contact the customer and share the information as appropriate. Call me if you have any questions. Thank you.

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 8:50 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]> Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]> Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]> [REDACTED]; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI <[REDACTED]> Edwards, Tammy - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

Desai and Tim,

Just got final approval for you to provide this response. Greatly appreciate your input and insights as well as the highly responsive Stan Franke who was extremely helpful and will make good use of this statement as well.

“The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail.

Regarding the customer’s political mailing, Postal Management researched to find that the candidate’s Political Mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo.

Further information about USPS Political Mail services and processes may be found here on our website: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm> “

Thanks and good night.
Questions? I’m lurking online for the next hour or so.

Marti

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 4:10 PM
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]> Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

Marti,
Another Fargo election mail inquiry

From: Nick Broadway [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Hello, this is Nick Broadway with WDAY News in Fargo, ND.

We are interviewing a political candidate in town who lost his election by a slim margin. He is alleging that 300 of the mailers he sent on October 26th with First Class postage did not arrive until after election day.

Can you confirm if this happened, and if so, do you know why?

The info he provided is as follows:

"The mailer was scheduled to hit 900+ Republican households Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, to coincide with the start of early voting in Cass County. The intent was to remind voters that they were in a new district after redistricting and encourage them to go vote for their local District 10 candidates.

The campaign spoke with the Prairiewood Post Office branch and with the Downtown Fargo branch. The campaign delivered the mailing to the postal system Oct. 26, first class, to arrive at Republican households between Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 to coincide with early voting. Postal officials acknowledge the batch arrived in the Fargo area as early as Oct. 29. But "between 260 and 280" did not arrive at the local branch for home delivery until Nov. 10, according to postal officials."

I can be reached by cell at [REDACTED]

Thank you,
- Nick

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wed, 21 Dec 2022 16:19:23 +0000
To: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: FW: For your records; No response required.
Attachments: 636041 Incoming Inquiry.pdf, 636041 Final Case Response BCC.pdf

Mark Janda
(612) 349-4992

From: Fordham, Bridget B - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]; Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]; Healy, Abigail K - Washington, DC [REDACTED] Bentley, Daniel M - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: For your records; No response required.

Government Relations is providing you a copy of the attached congressional inquiry and response for your records. If this no longer falls in your area of responsibility, please kindly share with the appropriate person.

Bridget Fordham
Government Relations Correspondence
U.S. Postal Service Headquarters



From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wed, 21 Dec 2022 22:01:07 +0000
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI; Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: FW: For your records; No response required.
Attachments: 636041 Incoming Inquiry.pdf, 636041 Final Case Response BCC.pdf

Didn't see either of you on this.

I can add that – even though this just came through today – Mr. Olafson has once again reached out to the OIG who told him they didn't have anything to investigate. The OIG also told me he received a copy of the letter from Mr. Olafson, so that pretty much guarantees he has it. I don't know if he'll do anything with it but, given his previous moves, it would not surprise me if he went back to the media.

Mark Janda
(612) 349-4992

From: Fordham, Bridget B - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]; Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]; Healy, Abigail K - Washington, DC [REDACTED]; Bentley, Daniel M - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: For your records; No response required.

Government Relations is providing you a copy of the attached congressional inquiry and response for your records. If this no longer falls in your area of responsibility, please kindly share with the appropriate person.

Bridget Fordham
Government Relations Correspondence
U.S. Postal Service Headquarters



From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC
Sent: Thu, 17 Nov 2022 14:40:08 +0000
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI; Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
Cc: Sallay, Rod (HQ) - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

From: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 9:39 AM
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]; Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

We made the decision not to respond to the customer again in writing. The senators office now inquired about the issue. We will continue to use the prepared statement. Thanks for the feedback.

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

I do recall us once or twice saying "we regret."
But that customer wasn't quite so intent on publicizing and it was expressed privately.
Have a good evening. Back to "feet up."

From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 4:43 PM
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Marti, good advice to stick with the already approved statement. Thanks.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area

[REDACTED]

Phone: (630) 539-6555
[REDACTED]

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:42 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Stan,

I strongly recommend that you not use either statement previously sent but stand on this one, please? He wants a written statement so he can show it to the media. Please provide him with this:

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail.

Regarding the customer's political mailing, Postal Management researched to find that the candidate's Political Mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo.

Further information about USPS Political Mail services and processes may be found here on our website: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm> "

Election Mail assumes all statements provided to customers end up in the media. We have a very strong policy that we do NOT say we are sorry. We have NEVER done it in the three years I've been working with them. I suggest you stick with the statement above. Provide a few niceties, like "Hello Mr. Olafson" and "Wishing you a good holiday season," but I would also skip that "let me know if I can be of further assistance" because the door on this issue is NOT open.

Marti

From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI <[REDACTED]>; Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Regarding this statement – is this still within our mailing standards for Marketing mail? If yes, then I would not apologize but offer information about Marketing mail and delivery standards.

The Mixed AADC tray, though, would have been opened and the pieces therein sorted locally with other mail and sent to Fargo through the mailstream from Indiana, which is a longer process.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area
[REDACTED]

Phone: (630) 539-6555

[REDACTED]

From: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:19 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]; Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Mark reached out to the customer. The customer has asked for a written response. Since this is tied into a media reply, are we ok with responding to the customer with the proposed response below or do we avoid a written response all together?

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 3:15 PM
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Subject: Curtis Olafson Mailing - Fargo

Stan:

This is the email I propose we send to Mr. Olafson to explain his mailing not arriving before the election in its entirety in Fargo, ND. Let me know.

Mr. Olafson:

Again, I apologize that the mailing submitted on your behalf did not meet your timeline for delivery in your area.

As I stated on the phone, this was a Marketing Mail shipment inducted in Batesville, Indiana on 10/29.

There were 4 trays. 2 were for ZIP Code 58104, 1 for ZIP Code 58103 and the final tray was a Mixed AADC tray with a variety of ZIP Codes in it. As I explained, complete trays to 5-digit ZIP Codes are shipped unopened to the postal facility responsible for final sortation before delivery. That would have been the case for the trays to 58104 and 58103. This is why the pieces in those trays appeared shortly after induction in Indiana.

The Mixed AADC tray, though, would have been opened and the pieces therein sorted locally with other mail and sent to Fargo through the mailstream from Indiana, which is a longer process.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Mark Janda
Customer Relations Manager, Minnesota-North Dakota District
(612) 349-4992

From: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wed, 23 Nov 2022 01:06:14 +0000
To: Henry, Eric E - Carol Stream, IL
Cc: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson
Attachments: Mr. Olafson's email to Shari Buck.docx, 3602 FIN STATEMENT Curtis Olafson.pdf, Curtis Olafson.pdf

More coming from this guy.

From: Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 4:55 PM
To: Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI [REDACTED]
Cc: Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

Stan:

We just got a Congressional from the gentleman who lost the election. Please have Legal take a look and advise on a response.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Rettig, Shauna - Minneapolis, MN" [REDACTED]
Date: November 22, 2022 at 4:48:27 PM CST
To: "Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN" [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

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Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 4:34 PM
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Curtis Olafson

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I just submitted this inquiry to you.

Have a great Thanksgiving

Shari L Buck
US Senator John Hoeven
Western Regional Director



From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
Sent: Tue, 15 Nov 2022 21:13:14 +0000
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN; Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC
Cc: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN; Henry, Eric E - Carol Stream, IL; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI; Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

I'm looping in VP Eric Henry, Stan Franke, and Darleen that we have received a second media inquiry regarding the delayed political mailings in Fargo, ND.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area
500 Fullerton Avenue
Carol Stream IL 60199-9641

Phone: (630) 539-6555

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:10 PM
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

Marti,
Another Fargo election mail inquiry

From: Nick Broadway <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

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Hello, this is Nick Broadway with WDAY News in Fargo, ND.

We are interviewing a political candidate in town who lost his election by a slim margin. He is alleging that 300 of the mailers he sent on October 26th with Frist Class postage did not arrive until after election day.

Can you confirm if this happened, and if so, do you know why?

The info he provided is as follows:

"The mailer was scheduled to hit 900+ Republican households Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, to coincide with the start of early voting in Cass County. The intent was to remind voters that they were in a new district after redistricting and encourage them to go vote for their local District 10 candidates.

The campaign spoke with the Prairiewood Post Office branch and with the Downtown Fargo branch. The campaign delivered the mailing to the postal system Oct. 26, first class, to arrive at Republican households between Oct. 31 and Nov. 2 to coincide with early voting. Postal officials acknowledge the batch arrived in the Fargo area as early as Oct. 29. But "between 260 and 280" did not arrive at the local branch for home delivery until Nov. 10, according to postal officials."

I can be reached by cell at [REDACTED]

Thank you,
- Nick

From: Ryan Janke
Sent: Wed, 16 Nov 2022 10:27:30 -0600
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: KFGO News inquiry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Thank you for both responses.
Ryan

On Wed, Nov 16, 2022 at 10:22 AM Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
[REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning Mr. Janke,

USPS respectfully declines your interview request. At this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

*Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,*

*Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications*

w(612) 349-4717 / c [REDACTED]

Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 7:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: KFGO News inquiry

Good morning Mr. Janke,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm the USPS spokesperson for North Dakota, Desai Abdul-Razzaaq.

I understand that you have attempted to contact Postal Management in Fargo concerning the claims of State Senate candidate Curtis Olafson. Please reference the official statement below concerning this matter.

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail.

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Further information about USPS Political Mail services and processes may be found here on our website: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm>."

*Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq.*

*Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications*

w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]

Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
Sent: Thu, 17 Nov 2022 21:07:15 +0000
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Abdul,

What city is this radio station from?

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area

Phone: (630) 539-6555

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]
Cc: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Tim,

Other than declining the interview request, please advise.

*Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,
Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts*



From: Tom Tucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Hi Desai,

Hope and trust that you are well.

My colleague Ty Schonert shared your contact information with me.

I have been asked to cover the story involving Curtis Olafson, and his assertion that campaign mailers for his campaign for state senate were held up at the post office, and not delivered until two days after the election. You can find a link to the story below.

Would it please be possible to connect with you via zoom, to get a few comments on this?

Day and time are flexible, but sometime tomorrow is preferable. Depending on what time works best for you, I would look to email the zoom link to you 10 minutes before our agreed upon time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

--

TOM TUCKER

Senior Reporter/Anchor

WDAY Radio - 970 AM / 93.1 FM

Flag Family Media - AM 1100 The Flag WZFG



WDAY Radio | 970 AM / 93.1 FM

From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
Sent: Tue, 15 Nov 2022 21:29:45 +0000
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC
Cc: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN; Henry, Eric E - Carol Stream, IL; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI; Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

To date there are three media inquiries –

FARGO, ND – WDAY, KFGZ, and The Forum inquired about State senate candidate claim of hundreds of political mailers delayed by Post Office until after election.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area

Phone: (630) 539-6555

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:23 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>; Henry, Eric E - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI <[REDACTED]>; Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

Yep, they will multiply until we get a resin de out there. Keep filing 'em to me. Helpful when I want to nudge... ☐

Sent from my iPhone.

On Nov 15, 2022, at 4:13 PM, Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I'm looping in VP Eric Henry, Stan Franke, and Darleen that we have received a second media inquiry regarding the delayed political mailings in Fargo, ND.

From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
Sent: Thu, 17 Nov 2022 21:03:54 +0000
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Cc: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Abdul,

Provide the approved statement. If they ask any follow-up questions, say, At this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

Thanks.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area

Phone: (630) 539-6555

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]
Cc: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Tim,

Other than declining the interview request, please advise.

Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,
Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Tom Tucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Hi Desai,

Hope and trust that you are well.

My colleague Ty Schonert shared your contact information with me.

I have been asked to cover the story involving Curtis Olafson, and his assertion that campaign mailers for his campaign for state senate were held up at the post office, and not delivered until two days after the election. You can find a link to the story below.

Would it please be possible to connect with you via zoom, to get a few comments on this?

Day and time are flexible, but sometime tomorrow is preferable. Depending on what time works best for you, I would look to email the zoom link to you 10 minutes before our agreed upon time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

--

TOM TUCKER
Senior Reporter/Anchor
WDAY Radio - 970 AM / 93.1 FM
Flag Family Media - AM 1100 The Flag WZFG
[REDACTED]

WDAY Radio | 970 AM / 93.1 FM

From: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Thu, 17 Nov 2022 23:48:07 +0000
To: Abdul-Razzaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Will it ever go away?

From: Abdul-Razzaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

FYI

From: Tom Tucker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Thank you for the statement. I'll note that the postal service turned down our request for an interview.

Best regards,

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 3:24 PM Abdul-Razzaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]> wrote:

At this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaq,
Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Tom Tucker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:19 PM

To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

Thank you for the statement and the information provided. Are you available for an interview?

Best,

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 3:16 PM Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good afternoon Tom,

Thank you for your interest in the United States Postal Service.

The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail.

Regarding the customer's political mailing, Postal Management researched to find that the candidate's Political Mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo.

Further information about USPS Political Mail services and processes may be found here on our website: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm>.

Respectfully,

Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,

Strategic Communications

USPS Corporate Communications

w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]

Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Tom Tucker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 2:56 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside USPS. **STOP and CONSIDER** before responding, clicking on links, or opening attachments.

From: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Fri, 18 Nov 2022 00:05:15 +0000
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

I need to get you to HQ before I go. Working on it.

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 5:50 PM
To: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

For you ... yes. Next March.

Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,
Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 5:48 PM [REDACTED]
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Will it ever go away?

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

FYI

From: Tom Tucker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

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Thank you for the statement. I'll note that the postal service turned down our request for an interview.

Best regards,

On Thu, Nov 17, 2022 at 3:24 PM Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:

At this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

Respectfully,

Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,

Strategic Communications

USPS Corporate Communications

w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]

Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Tom Tucker [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:19 PM

To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

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Thank you for the statement and the information provided. Are you available for an interview?

Best,

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[REDACTED] wrote:

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Thank you for your interest in the United States Postal Service.

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Regarding the customer's political mailing, Postal Management researched to find that the candidate's Political Mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo.

From: Henry, Eric E - Carol Stream, IL
Sent: Tue, 15 Nov 2022 21:35:48 +0000
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL; Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC
Cc: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI; Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

Good afternoon. Once you draft the response, I would like to review it.

Thank you

Eric Henry
Vice President
Central Area Retail and Delivery Operations

Office: 630-539-5885

From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:30 PM
To: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN <[REDACTED]>; Henry, Eric E - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>; Franke, Stan M - Milwaukee, WI <[REDACTED]>; Reid-DeMeo, Darleen A - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] WDAY News inquiry

To date there are three media inquiries –

FARGO, ND – WDAY, KFGZ, and The Forum inquired about State senate candidate claim of hundreds of political mailers delayed by Post Office until after election.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area

Phone: (630) 539-6555

From: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:23 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL <[REDACTED]>

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Thu, 17 Nov 2022 21:04:30 +0000
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL
Cc: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Ok, thank you.

Respectfully,
Desai Abdul-Razzaaq,
Strategic Communications
USPS Corporate Communications
w(612) 349-4717 / [REDACTED]
Minnesota/N. Dakota & Wisconsin Districts



From: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:04 PM
To: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Cc: Johnson, Martha S - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Media interview request - Fargo election campaign mailer

Abdul,

Provide the approved statement. If they ask any follow-up questions, say, At this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

Thanks.

Tim Ratliff
Manager, Strategic Communications
Central Area

Phone: (630) 539-6555
[REDACTED]

From: Abdul-Razzaaq, Desai O - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:00 PM
To: Ratliff, Timothy D - Carol Stream, IL [REDACTED]

From: Volk, Patrick E
Sent: Thu, 17 Nov 2022 21:26:32 +0000
To: Geary, Christopher M - Washington, DC
Cc: Larson, Travis D. - Grand Forks, ND; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: Re: Executive Media Alert- Fargo ND

I do not have any information or evidence that would indicate delays of any kind in the Fargo Plant for processing or the Fargo Prairiewood Station for delivery. All political logs were maintained and I was told would be inspected today by your team. The BMEU drop and AFSM barcode data was shared with Strategic Comms, Travis, and Mr. Williams. I'm assuming you have this information. If not let me know. Thank you.

Patrick Volk
Postmaster (F)
Fargo ND 58102

From: Geary, Christopher M - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:03:43 PM [REDACTED]
To: Volk, Patrick E [REDACTED]
Cc: Larson, Travis D. - Grand Forks, ND [REDACTED]; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]
Subject: Executive Media Alert- Fargo ND

Patrick and Travis, per our conversations can you please provide me any information regarding your findings with the delayed Political pieces that we can include in the report today that will go to the Leadership referencing the below media with Olafson including mails that were received today and thank you!

CENTRAL AREA

After losing by 38 votes, Fargo candidate slams Postal Service for late delivery of campaign flyers -Video

USPS spokesperson claims Fargo political mailers were delivered promptly -
FARGO — Curtis Olafson, a Republican who was defeated by 38 votes in the Nov. 8 election for the newly created District 10 state Senate seat in North Dakota, is criticizing the U.S. Postal Service for the late delivery of more than 200 of his campaign flyers

USPS spokesperson claims political mailers were delivered promptly

November 16, 2022 – KFGO Newsradio 790 Fargo

Fargo, ND – Political Mail. KFGZ contacted the local postmaster requesting an interview regarding State senate candidate claim of delayed political mailings. That inquiry was forwarded back to district strategic communications specialist, who declined interview request and explained at this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

From: Geary, Christopher M - Washington, DC
Sent: Thu, 17 Nov 2022 21:03:43 +0000
To: Volk, Patrick E
Cc: Larson, Travis D. - Grand Forks, ND; Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Subject: Executive Media Alert- Fargo ND
Importance: High

Patrick and Travis, per our conversations can you please provide me any information regarding your findings with the delayed Political pieces that we can include in the report today that will go to the Leadership referencing the below media with Olafson including mails that were received today and thank you!

CENTRAL AREA

After losing by 38 votes, Fargo candidate slams Postal Service for late delivery of campaign flyers -Video

USPS spokesperson claims Fargo political mailers were delivered promptly - FARGO — Curtis Olafson, a Republican who was defeated by 38 votes in the Nov. 8 election for the newly

created District 10 state Senate seat in North Dakota, is criticizing the U.S. Postal Service for the late delivery of more than 200 of his campaign flyers

USPS spokesperson claims political mailers were delivered promptly

November 16, 2022 – KFGO Newsradio 790 Fargo

Fargo, ND – Political Mail. KFGZ contacted the local postmaster requesting an interview regarding State senate candidate claim of delayed political mailings. That inquiry was forwarded back to district strategic communications specialist, who declined interview request and explained at this time, we have no additional information besides the already provided statement.

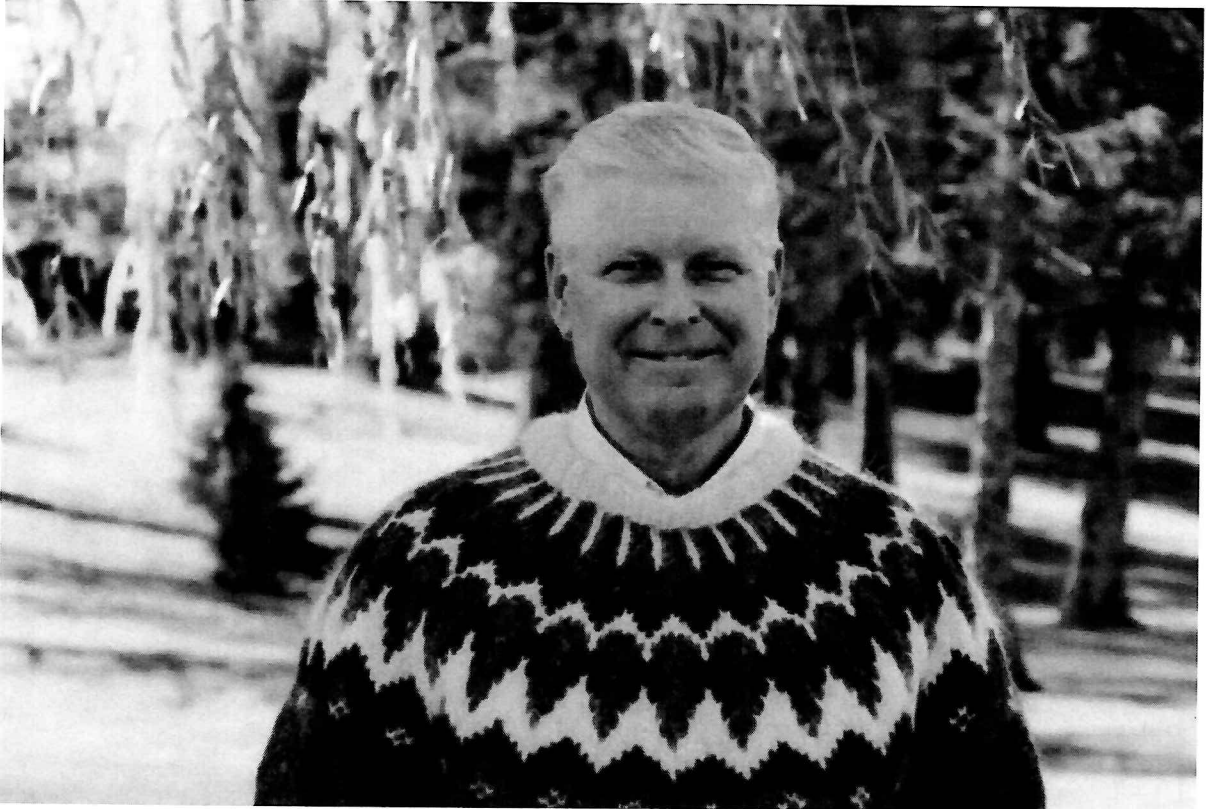
PRAIRIEWOOD (Physical Address) 1455 32ND ST S FARGO, ND 58103-3400	Category: Delivery and Retail Type: Post Office Subtype: Station Area: CENTRAL (J)	Facility ID: 1378332 Status: Active AMS Locale Key: W19229 District: MN-ND
--	---	---

(Executive Media Alert) (RDOCC triggered Gemba)

After losing by 38 votes, Fargo candidate slams Postal Service for late delivery of campaign flyers

"In such a close race, it's hard not to wonder what the outcome might have been, Olafson said in a written statement in which he maintained that

between 260 and 280 of his campaign mailings reached Republican households in District 10 two days after the election.



Curtis Olafson.

Contributed photo

By David Olson

November 15, 2022 12:02 PM

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T We are part of The Trust Project.

FARGO — Curtis Olafson, a Republican who was defeated by 38 votes in the Nov. 8 election for the newly created District 10 state Senate seat in North Dakota, is criticizing the U.S. Postal Service for the late delivery of more than 200 of his campaign flyers.

"In such a close race, it's hard not to wonder what the outcome might have been," Olafson said in a written statement in which he maintained that between 260 and 280 of his campaign mailings reached Republican households in District 10 two days after the election.

Olafson said the mailings were scheduled to reach more than 900 Republican households between Oct. 31 and Nov. 2, and he said Postal Service officials have acknowledged the agency received mailings for delivery as early as Oct. 29.

00:12

"It's truly disappointing to know that a basic campaign strategy to reach hundreds of Republican voters was denied us," Olafson said, adding that he was puzzled about why the mailings were broken up into batches by the Postal Service before being distributed.

"I trust that the Post Office will do a thorough investigation; it's important to know what actually happened and why," Olafson said.

ADVERTISEMENT

In response to the criticism, the U.S. Postal Service offered this statement from spokesman Desi Abdul-Razzaaq.

"The U.S. Mail serves as a secure, efficient, and effective means for citizens and campaigns to participate in the electoral process. We employ a robust and proven process to ensure proper handling of all political and campaign mail," Abdul-Razzaaq said.

"Regarding the customer's political mailing, postal management researched to find that the candidate's political mailing was delivered promptly on arrival in Fargo," Abdul-Razzaaq added.

He said more information about how the Postal Service handles political mail may be found here: <https://www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm> .

Olafson received 1,526 votes in the Nov. 8 general election. Democrat Ryan Braunberger was elected with 1,564 votes in the District 10 Senate race. The district, which sits west of Interstate 29 and straddles Interstate 94 in south Fargo, was newly created due to redistricting.

Olafson served as a state senator from 2006-2012. He currently serves as chairman of the District 10 Republican Party.

North Dakota Legislative District 10.
Map via North Dakota Legislature

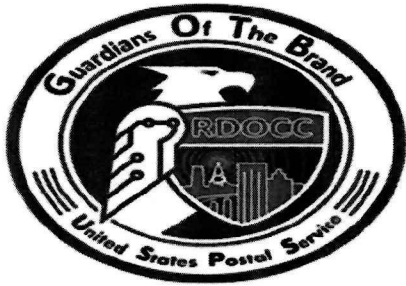
Chris Geary | Retail Delivery Operations Command Center (A) Team Lead Central / KY-WV Domicile



[Election and Political Mail 2022 \(usps.gov\) \(link\)](#)

[USPS — DCC Command Center \(link\)](#)

[OpAWARE \(Automated Weather Alert & Realtime Events\) \(usps.gov\) \(link\)](#)



This message is confidential, intended only for the named recipient(s), and may contain information that is privileged or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient(s), you are notified that the dissemination, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you receive this message in error or are not the named recipient(s), please notify the sender at the email address above, and delete this e-mail from your computer. Thank you.

From: Volk, Patrick E
Sent: Wed, 18 Jan 2023 13:38:54 +0000
To: Sachs, Nick R - St Paul, MN; Sutton, Erik J - Blaine, MN
Subject: LMOU Fargo 2019-2023.odt
Attachments: LMOU Fargo 2019-2023.odt

From: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN
Sent: Wed, 21 Dec 2022 17:27:16 +0000
To: Volk, Patrick E; Larson, Travis D. - Grand Forks, ND; Rolph, Wayne P - Grand Forks, ND
Subject: FW: For your records; No response required.
Attachments: 636041 Incoming Inquiry.pdf, 636041 Final Case Response BCC.pdf

FYI

From: Fordham, Bridget B - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Williams, Anthony C - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]; Janda, Mark - Minneapolis, MN [REDACTED]; Healy, Abigail K - Washington, DC <[REDACTED]>; Bentley, Daniel M - Washington, DC [REDACTED]
Subject: For your records; No response required.

Government Relations is providing you a copy of the attached congressional inquiry and response for your records. If this no longer falls in your area of responsibility, please kindly share with the appropriate person.

Bridget Fordham
Government Relations Correspondence
U.S. Postal Service Headquarters

