COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES HOUSING AND INSURANCE MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE, FLANKING MEMBER

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WASHINGTON OFFICE: 2245 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-4572

DISTRICT OFFICE:
316 N. MILWAUKEE ST, SUITE 406
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 297-1140
FAX: (414) 297-1086

# Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Ms. Phyllis M. Smith, Regional Commissioner Great Lakes Program Service Center 600 W Madison Street Chicago, IL 60661-2406

Dear Ms. Smith,

I am writing to inquire concerning the Social Security Administration's decision to close the Mitchell Street Branch Office.

In a recent meeting between my staff and your Regional Communications Deirector Doug M. Nguyen and Area Director Chris Churchill, Mr. Nguyen stated that this decision was reached after the General Services Administration identified three sites that were considered to be unsuitable for relocation. He also stated that the City of Milwaukee was contacted for assistance. However, I am not aware of what the specific request was made to the city.

I have a strong interest in this decision because the Mitchell Street Branch Office is located in my congressional district. The City of Milwaukee's south side is home to the largest Hispanic population in the state. The Mitchell Street Branch Office provides services to constituents with limited English ability. The closing of that office not only takes away much needed services to the community, but it also creates a challenge to accessing services as the closest branch is the Downtown Branch, which has limited access to parking. My office has received calls regarding this matter from concerned City Officials including, City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderman Jose Perez.

Mayor Barrett informed me of available space for relocation of the Mitchell Street Branch at the new Milwaukee Public Library building located at 906 W. Historic Mitchell Street. He indicated that the entire second floor space is availabe. I am curious to learn if this location was considered during your contact with the City of Milwaukee.

Please reconsider your decision to close the Mitchell Street Branch Office. Losing the services and resources this office provides will be detrimental to my community. I look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions, please contact my Casework Supervisor, Maria Kasperski at (414) 297-1140 or by e-mail at Maria Kasperski @mail.house.gov.

Gwen Moore

Sincerely

Member of Congress

GM/MK

Cc: Mayor Tom Barrett
Cc: Alderman Jose Perez

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## Congress of the United States

### House of Representatives

February 6, 2018

Ms. Phyllis M. Smith, Regional Commissioner Social Security Administration Great Lakes Program Service Center 600 W Madison St Chicago, IL 60661-2406

Dear Ms. Smith,

This request is in follow up to my previous letter concerning the Social Security Administration's decision to close the Mitchell Street Branch Office. I am requesting that you consider the vacant second floor site located at 906 W. Historic Mitchell Street for relocation.

The Mitchell Street Branch Office is located in my congressional district and provides crucial services and resources to my constituents in zip codes, 53204, 53207 and 53151(City of St. Francis). The proximity of the site suggested above is accessible and convenient for residents in those zip codes.

City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderman Jose Perez have both contacted me to express their concerns about how this decision will impact residents in these communities. Both officials informed me of available space for relocation of the Mitchell Street Branch at the address indicated above in the same building as the newly relocated Milwaukee Public Library. My understanding is that the entire second floor space is available. I ask that you submit a request to GSA for assessment of this site.

Please give my request your strong consideration. The loss of the services and resources provided by the Mitchell Street Branch Office will be detrimental to my constituents. I look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions, please contact my Casework Supervisor, Maria Kasperski at (414) 297-1140 or by e-mail at Maria.Kasperski@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Gwen Moore Member of Congress

GM/MK

Cc: John Cooke, GSA Regional Commissioner Mayor Tom Barret

Alderman Jose Perez

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES HOUSING AND INSURANCE MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE, RANKING MEMBER

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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

January 24, 2018

Mr. John Cooke, Acting Regional Administrator U.S. General Services Administration Great Lakes Region Five 230 S Dearborn Street Chicago, IL 60604-1505

Dear Mr. Cooke,

I am writing to request information regarding your agency's involvement in the lease procurement for the Social Security Administration (SSA), Mitchell Street Branch Office located at 1710 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Regional Communications Director Doug M. Nguyen and Area Director Chris Churchill recently informed me of the closing of the SSA office located in my congressional district. Mr. Nguyen stated that the SSA, GSA, along with the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Protective Services made the decision to close this office.

I have received concerned calls from City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderman Jose Perez. Mayor Barrett has informed me of available space for relocation of the Mitchell Street Branch at the newly built Milwaukee Public Library building located at 906 W. Historic Mitchell Street. The entire second floor is currently vacant and available. I would like to hear from you on whether this space can be considered.

The City of Milwaukee's south side is home to the largest Hispanic population in the state. The Mitchell Street Branch Office provides services to constituents with limited English ability. The closing of this office not only takes away much needed resources and services to the community, but it also creates a challenge to accessing services at the other SSA Branch Offices. My constituents on the south side in zip codes 53204, 53207 and 53135 (City of St. Francis) need these services to be accessible.

Please provide my office with information on the sites GSA identified and the findings on those sites as well as whether the space at the Milwaukee Public Library Building is being considered for relocation. Losing the services and resources the Mitchell Street Branch provides will be detrimental to my constituents in these three zip code areas.

Thank you for your assistance and attention to this request. Please contact my Casework Supervisor, Maria Kasperski at (414) 297-1140 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:Maria.Kasperski@mail.house.gov">Maria.Kasperski@mail.house.gov</a> with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gwen Moore

Member of Congress

GM/MK

Cc: Mayor Tom Barrett
Cc: Alderman Jose Perez

Cc: Phyllis M. Smith, SSA Regional Commissioner

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES HOUSING AND INSURANCE MONETARY POLICY AND TRADE, RANKING MEMBER

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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

February 6, 2018

Mr. John Cooke Acting Regional Administrator U.S. General Services Administration 230 S Dearborn St Chicago, IL 60604-1505

Dear Mr. Cooke,

I recently wrote to you concerning your agency's involvement in the lease procurement for the Social Security Administration (SSA), Mitchell Street Branch Office located at 1710 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I am requesting that you consider conducting an assessment of the available vacant second floor space located at 906 W. Historic Mitchell Street in the building where the newly relocated Milwaukee Public Library is housed. In my previous letter I informed you of my communication with City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderman Jose Perez and their concerns on the closing of the SSA Branch Office. Both officials recommended the space located at 906 W. Historic Mitchell Street as a site for relocation of the SSA Branch Office.

The closing of this office and the loss of very much needed services to the residents on the South Side of Milwaukee and also the City of St. Francis is concerning to me. My constituents depend on the Mitchell Street Branch Office for services in Spanish as well as resources. The proximity of the site at 906 W. Historic Mitchell Street is accessible and convenient for my constituents in zip codes 53204, 53207 and 53135.

Please give my request your careful attention and consideration. I look forward to hearing from your office. If you have any questions, please contact my Casework Supervisor, Maria Kasperski, at (414) 297-1140 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:Maria.Kasperski@mail.house.gov">Maria Kasperski@mail.house.gov</a>.

Thank you for your continued assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Gwen Moore

Member of Congress

GM/MK

Cc: Mayor Tom Barrett
Cc: Alderman Jose Perez