



Listening as Region 15 NBA Larry Cirelli (r) voices NALC's support for Carrier Alert are New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg (c) and NY District Manager Robert Daruk.

Big Apple boosts Carrier Alert

The quarter-century-old Carrier Alert program got a big shot in the arm last month in the Big Apple when the nation's largest city announced it would work to revitalize the program and link it to the city's 311 telephone information hotline.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was joined by NALC Region 15 National Business Agent Larry Cirelli, USPS officials and heads of the city departments serving the elderly and disabled for the April 4 announcement.

Noting that letter carriers often are the first people to recognize signs of distress, Bloomberg said, "Through the use of 311, we can revive this common-sense program and make it more accessible to New Yorkers."

By linking the program to the city's 311 hotline, carriers will have one central place to call if they suspect a patron is in trouble. "Let us hope they never find anything, but if there is somebody in need, one phone call could save a life," said the mayor, who appears in a new instructional video explaining Carrier Alert.

Carrier Alert was established as a national NALC-USPS program in 1982. In simple terms, patrons are able to sign up for special attention from their carriers, who are alerted to watch for signs of trouble by means of stickers affixed to mailboxes.

"The NALC is proud to continue the Carrier Alert tradition by partnering with the City of New York and Mayor Bloomberg," NBA Cirelli said during the announcement ceremony. "The neighborhood letter carrier is always eager to help monitor the well-being of their elderly and disabled patrons. It is what letter carriers across the nation do every day, with or without a formal program."

As originally devised, patrons would sign up through local agencies for the aging, United Ways, or similar groups. Under the renewed New York program, city residents will be able to call 311 to initiate the enrollment process. ☒

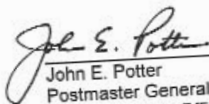
Joint Statement of Support on the 25th Anniversary of Carrier Alert

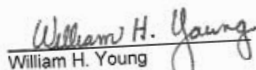
In July 1982 the United States Postal Service and the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) launched Carrier Alert, a joint effort to partner with local social service agencies across the country to offer a measure of security for one of the most vulnerable segments of our society—homebound citizens.

During its 25-year history Carrier Alert has leveraged Letter Carriers' unique daily presence in America's communities to keep a watchful eye on elderly, infirm and disabled citizens. The value of the program has been repeatedly demonstrated as alert Letter Carriers have helped thousands of these citizens receive assistance. In many cases this action has literally saved lives.

The all-volunteer Carrier Alert program is a natural extension of the role Letter Carriers and the Postal Service play in America's neighborhoods. Together, the Postal Service and its Letter Carriers are committed to serving the people and communities in ways that go beyond simply delivering the mail. We show how deeply we care for the communities we serve.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Carrier Alert, we encourage all NALC branch leaders and local Postmasters to recommit themselves to working with local social service agencies to support the program and to extend its reach to those who most need the peace of mind it offers.


John E. Potter
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