

## PUBLIC WORKS

### MOTION

Nancy C. Avery, a lifelong civil rights activist, was the first African American to head a major post office.

On March 6, 1961, President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 10925, establishing the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

That year, Postmaster General J. Edward Day appointed Mrs. Nancy C. Avery as acting postmaster of the Pacoima, California, Post Office – reportedly the first African American to head a first-class Post Office since the Reconstruction era. Mrs. Avery was appointed to the position permanently in 1963 and served until her retirement in 1984. First Class Post Offices are determined based on revenue and in 1961 Pacoima was one of the 11.6 percent of all locations that qualified for designation.

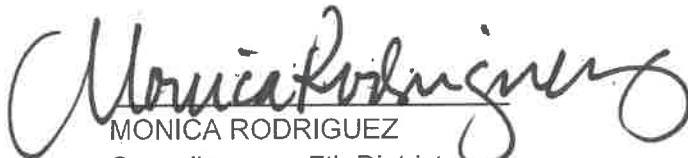
In the early 1960s, the United States Postal Service (USPS) was one of the largest employers of African Americans across the country. The USPS had benefits for its employees and offered opportunities for advancement differing greatly from many of the low-wage, no benefit job options that were available to African Americans at that time.

Mrs. Avery was an active Democratic Party worker, a housewife, and school recreation assistant. She was also a committed advocate for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

After her retirement from the Post Office she served as a commissioner and president of the then Los Angeles Department of Animal Regulation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at Van Nuys Boulevard and Keweenaw Avenue be named as "Nancy C. Avery - First African American Postmaster of a Major Post Office 1961 - 1984" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:

  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:


ORIGINAL

PK

JUN 18 2024