



# RESOLVE



## STEP B DECISION

<b>Step B Team:</b>	Decision:	<b><u>RESOLVE</u></b>
USPS:	USPS Number:	<b>G11N-4G-C 1512 4737</b>
<b>Laurie Nichols-Marshall</b>	Grievant:	<b>Class Action</b>
NALC:	Branch Grievance Number:	<b>421-109-15</b>
<b>Jim Ruetze</b>	Branch:	<b>421</b>
	Installation:	<b>San Antonio</b>
District:	Delivery Unit:	<b>Cedar Elm</b>
<b>Rio Grande</b>	State:	<b>TX</b>
	Incident Date:	<b>01/19/2015</b>
	Informal Step A Meeting:	<b>02/11/2015</b>
	Formal Step A Meeting:	<b>03/25/2015</b>
	Received at Step B:	<b>03/28/2015</b>
	Step B Decision Date:	<b>05/18/2021</b>
	Issue Code:	<b>11.6300</b>
	NALC Subject Code:	<b>506002</b>

**ISSUE:** Did management violate Article 11.6.A. of the National Agreement (NA) when management failed to poll and schedule regular full-time volunteers for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday 01/19/2015 according to the pecking order? If so, what is the remedy?

Did management violate Article 11 of the NA when they worked city carrier assistants (CCAs) instead of full-time regular volunteers on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday? If so, what is the remedy?

**DECISION:** The Dispute Resolution Team (DRT) mutually agreed to **RESOLVE** this grievance. Based on the settlement of national interpretive case Q11N-4Q-C 1427 0600 and the resulting MOU M-01937 resolution, the case file evidenced a violation of Article 11.6 of the National Agreement. Management must comply with the holiday scheduling "pecking order" provisions of Article 11.6 for the day of the actual holiday. Management must poll for volunteers and post the holiday schedule by Tuesday of the preceding service week. Carriers S. Inman 02255682, J. Garcia 03513511, Jose Portales 03506973, M. Irizarry 02272774, and David Cervantes 03609201 will be compensated \$216.00 each for not being polled/permitted to work on the holiday. The payment has been processed through GATS at Step B. See the DRT Explanation below.

**EXPLANATION:** This is a class action grievance filed on behalf of the city letter carriers assigned to the Cedar Elm Station in San Antonio, TX. Management did not poll full-time regular carriers for volunteers for the holiday 01/19/2015 and instead only worked CCAs.

The union filed this grievance to protest management's failure to seek and utilize full-time volunteers before working CCAs on the holiday. Unable to resolve the dispute through the Informal and Formal A steps of the grievance procedure, the union appealed to Step B. The Step B team placed the grievance on **HOLD** pending settlement or arbitration of the national interpretive case Q11N-4Q-C 1427 0600.

The union contends management violated Article 11.6.A. of the NA and/or Article 11 of the Branch 421 local memorandum of understanding (LMOU) by failing to poll and schedule regular full-time volunteers for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday according to the proper pecking order, by Tuesday of the preceding week. Management also violated Article 11.6.A. of the NA and/or Article 11 of Branch 421 LMOU when they scheduled and worked four (4) CCAs to work the holiday instead of full-time regular volunteers.

The union requests management cease and desist from refusing to poll the full-time carriers for the holiday and to post the schedule by the Tuesday preceding the holiday and for future Article 11.6.A. violations be awarded as escalating remedies so management will take the seriousness of the LMOU of Branch 421. The union also request that carriers Irizarry, Inman, Portales, Cervantes and Garcia be paid at the corresponding rate for 8 hours each for the denied opportunities or otherwise made whole.

**Management** contends there is no notice of how many Amazon packages will arrive. Utilizing CCAs allows management the flexibility to minimize the amount of guaranteed time for the holiday. Management determined there was not going to be 8 hours of work, therefore determined to schedule five (5) CCAs. The union does not determine the work. The Dynamic Routing Tool, used to sort the packages, is what decides the number of routes needed and the workload determined is consistently changing. Management did what was most cost effective and efficient. To bring in regular carriers versus using the less expensive workforce is not a sound business decision.

The DRT reviewed the case file and determined management violated Article 11.6 of the National Agreement when they failed to poll for volunteers for the actual holiday 01/19/2015. The case file provided the Employee Everything Report for five (5) CCAs who worked on 01/19/2015 for a total of 45.3 hours. The DRT agreed management must comply with the holiday scheduling "pecking order" provisions of Article 11.6 or the provisions of a LMOU for the day of the actual holiday. Article 11.6.B of the Joint Contract Administration Manual (JCAM), on pages 11-3 and 11-4, provides the scheduling procedure for holiday assignments in relevant parts:

*The intent of Article 11.6 is to permit the maximum number of full-time regular, full-time flexible and part-time regular employees to be off on the holiday should they desire not to work while preserving the right of employees who wish to work their holiday or designated holiday.*

*Article 11.6.B provides the scheduling procedure for holiday assignments. Keep in mind that Article 30.B.13 provides that "the method of selecting employees to work on a holiday" is a subject for discussion during the period of local implementation. The Local Memorandum of Understanding (LMOU) may contain a local "pecking order." In the **absence** of LMOU provisions or a past practice concerning holiday assignments, the following **minimum pecking order should be followed**:*

- 1) All part-time flexible employees to the maximum extent possible, even if the payment of overtime is required.
- 2) **All full-time regular, full-time flexible and part-time regular employees who possess the necessary skills and have volunteered to work on their holiday or their designated holiday—by seniority.**
- 3) City carrier assistant employees.
- 4) All full-time regular, full-time flexible and part-time regular employees who possess the necessary skills and have volunteered to work on their non-scheduled day—by seniority.

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5) Full-time regular, full-time flexible and part-time regular employees who possess the necessary skills and have not volunteered on what would otherwise be their non-scheduled day—by inverse seniority.

6) Full-time regular, full-time flexible and part-time regular employees who possess the necessary skills and have not volunteered on what would otherwise be their holiday or designated holiday—by inverse seniority. [Emphasis Added]

**Holiday Schedule Posting.** The provisions of Article 11.4.A concerning straight-time pay for holiday work apply to all full-time employees whose holiday schedule is properly posted in accordance with this section. If the holiday schedule is not posted as of Tuesday preceding the service week in which the holiday falls, a full-time employee required to work on his or her holiday or designated holiday, or who volunteers to work on such day, will receive holiday scheduling premium for each hour of work, up to eight hours. However, the ELM Section 434.53.c(2) provides that: [Emphasis Added]

**ELM 434.53.c(2)** In the event that, subsequent to the Tuesday posting period, an emergency situation attributable to Act(s) of God arises that requires the use of manpower on that holiday in excess of that scheduled in the Tuesday posting, full-time regular employees who are required to work or who volunteer to work in this circumstance(s) do not receive holiday scheduling premium.

Arbitrator Mittenthal held in H4N-NA-C 21 (2nd Issue), January 19, 1987 (C-06775) that a regular employee who volunteers to work on a holiday or designated holiday has only volunteered to work eight hours. A regular volunteer cannot work beyond the eight hours without supervision first exhausting the ODL. He also ruled that management may not ignore the holiday “pecking order” provisions to avoid the payment of penalty overtime and remanded the issue of remedy for such violations to the parties. The relationship between Article 11 and the overtime provisions of Article 8 is discussed further under Article 8.5.

The JCAM states on page 11-5:

The Memorandum of Understanding dated October 19, 1988 (M-00859) provides:

The parties agree that the Employer may not refuse to comply with the holiday scheduling “pecking order” provisions of Article 11.6 or the provisions of a Local Memorandum of Understanding in order to avoid payment of penalty overtime. The parties further agree to remedy past and future violations of the above understanding as follows.

1. Full-time employees and part-time regular employees who file a timely grievance because they were improperly assigned to work their holiday or designated holiday will be compensated at an additional premium of 50 percent of the base hourly straight time rate.

2. For each full-time employee or part-time regular employee improperly assigned to work a holiday or designated holiday, the Employer will compensate the employee who should have worked but was not permitted to do so, pursuant to the provisions of Article 11.6, or pursuant to a Local Memorandum of Understanding, at the rate of pay the employee would have earned had he or she worked on that holiday.

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*While Mittenenthal ruled that it was a violation to ignore the "pecking order" to avoid payment of penalty overtime, he did indicate that "...the Postal Service can, of course, choose from among the part-time flexibles (or from among the regular volunteers, etc.) in order to limit its labor cost. That kind of choice would not conflict with the 'pecking order'."*

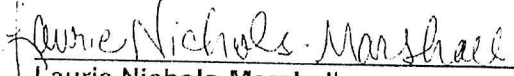
*National Arbitrator Fasser ruled in NC-C-6085, August 16, 1978 (C-02975) on the appropriate remedy for violations of Article 11.6. He found that when an employee who volunteered to work on a holiday or designated holiday is erroneously not scheduled to work, "the appropriate remedy now is to compensate the overlooked holiday volunteer for the total hours of lost work." [Emphasis Added]*

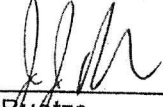
On 01/22/2021 the parties agreed to resolve the interpretive dispute in a Step 4 settlement (M-09137), which provides the following relevant language:

*The Employer determines the number and categories of employees needed for holiday work. In instances where there are **eight or more hours of work available, the normal holiday pecking order is used to schedule employees to work on a holiday.***

*In instances where the holiday pecking order applies and a parcel delivery hub and spoke model is utilized, employees of the installation where the carriers report and from where delivery originates on the holiday or designated holiday will be scheduled pursuant to the holiday pecking order, and existing local memorandum of understanding (LMOU) provisions regarding the holiday pecking order in that installation will apply. This does not preclude the scheduling of CCAs from other Post offices consistent with existing contractual provisions. [Emphasis Added]*

Based on its review of the case file, the DRT mutually agreed to the decision and remedy above.

  
Laurie Nichols-Marshall  
USPS Step B Representative

  
Jim Ruetze  
NALC Step B Representative

**cc:**

LR Manager, Southern Area  
NALC Region 10 NBA  
Rio Grande District HR Manager  
Rio Grande District LR Manager  
Management Formal A M. A. Moreno

NALC Branch President  
NALC Formal A M. Irizarry  
Manager, Rio Grande District  
Postmaster, San Antonio, Texas  
DRT File

**Grievance File Contents**

PS Form 8190  
Management's Contentions (6 pages)  
NALC Fax Cover Sheet (3 pages)  
Carrier Statements (3 pages)  
Local Implementation Impasse (8 pages)  
Carrier Schedule (2 pages)  
Employee Everything Report (33 pages)

Request for Formal Step A Meeting (2 pages)  
Steward Designation Letter (3 pages)  
ITEM 0-13 Extension Agreement (2 pages)  
Step B Decision (3 pages)  
Request for Information (7 pages)  
Holiday Poll (2 pages)  
Hours Analysis Report (19 pages)