


**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**Date:** March 26, 2014

**To:** Supervisor Theo Lipscomb, Chairman  
Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee

**From:** Don Tyler, Director, Department of Administrative Services 

**Subject:** Status Update Regarding the Courthouse Fire  
For Information Only

**BACKGROUND**

As a follow up to the February, 2014 Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee informational update on the Courthouse fire, the committee requested a follow up informational report. Specifically, members of the committee wanted to continue to receive an update regarding the status of the restoration work, a schedule of equipment being installed as part of the Phase II of the electrical reconstruction, the status of insurance fund cause and origin investigation.

**UPDATE**

**Phase II Restoration Work Continues**

As you recall, at the last Committee meeting we informed you that we had established permanent power into the core electrical power plant for the Courthouse Complex. We also noted that the next phase of the effort is to work on the distribution of the power throughout the complex. This "Phase II" effort includes the inspecting, repairing and replacing of transformers and other electrical equipment.

As the Phase II effort continues, County staff continues to work closely with the Local Government Property Insurance Fund ("Fund"), the Fund's claims adjustor and various contractors to determine which equipment needs servicing, repair or replacement. A comprehensive list of equipment is being prepared to guide this work team through Phase II. As of the date of this report the list is not complete enough to attach; however, we are hopeful that it will be in a form to provide to you at the Committee meeting. As of Thursday, March 27, transformers USS1 and USS2 are being delivered on site and preparations are being made to replace Courthouse emergency generator.

On the good news front, the restoration work has moved forward significantly enough to where we have been able to open up the 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to those staff and elected officials with IDs and parking access to the Annex Parking Lot. The tunnel remains closed due to adjacent ongoing construction and it will be likely that the 10<sup>th</sup> Street

entrance will have to close from time to time due to the movement of heavy equipment in the area.

We continue to work with the City of Milwaukee to get the appropriate approvals to open it up to regular traffic. We hope to have some success on this front in the coming weeks.

Finally, over the next several weeks we will be rolling out our new energy guidelines for all Courthouse Complex tenants to abide by when we have the restoration process completed.

**Cause and Origin Investigation and Reservation of Rights Letter**

As noted at the previous committee meeting, the completion of the cause and origin investigations drives the withdrawal of the Insurance Fund's Reservation of Rights letter. All evidence related to the cause and origin investigation has been removed from the Courthouse Complex. The Fund's investigation is in the final phase of completion.

As reported before, the Fund's initial conclusion is that a fire occurred in a capacitor located in the Courthouse basement. Much of the smoke damage was due to the burning of the oil within the capacitor. We continue to wait for the Fund to complete their investigation in anticipation of the release of the Reservation of Rights letter.

We hope to provide you with a more comprehensive update at Committee date.

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
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