



Broward Courthouse Officials Prepare for Hurricane Season Contingency Plan and Consequences Outlined in Report

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March 8, 2007

The hurricane season is approaching and Broward County Courthouse officials are preparing an emergency contingency plan in the event that the courthouse is damaged and rendered uninhabitable.

Details of the report and a discussion will take place at a news conference on Monday, March 12, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. outside of the Broward County Courthouse located at 201 S.E. 6th Street in Fort Lauderdale.

Items to be addressed:

- Current structural condition of the Courthouse.
- Likely condition of the Courthouse in the aftermath of a hurricane.
- Protection of public documents.
- Alternative venues for Courthouse operations.
- Prisoner, employee and visitor safety issues.

Broward County Mayor Josephus Eggelton, Broward County Chief Justice Dale Ross, Clerk of the Courts Howard Forman and other court officials will discuss the details of the report.

"I asked courthouse officials to develop a contingency plan three months ago after voters rejected a \$450 million bond issue to build a new courthouse," said Mayor

Eggelletion. “It’s likely that the building will fail if a hurricane strikes. What we’re hoping to do is identify and manage the multitude of negative consequences that will occur if the courthouse is damaged and closes.”

“During Hurricane Wilma, 175 windows were broken, the power went out, there was flooding,” said Clerk of the Courts, Howard Forman. “The building was not reinforced and it continues to age. A repeat occurrence is likely and would be much more damaging.”

Approximately 2,000 people work at the courthouse and 6,000 people visit on a daily basis.

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