



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

# Milwaukee County

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 24, 2013

Two-and-a-half weeks after a fire destroyed the main electrical infrastructure of the Milwaukee County Courthouse, the building fully reopened on Wednesday, July 24th.

In the days after this fire, experts told us it could take months to open the Courthouse, but thanks to a lot of hard work and a bit of ingenuity we are back open today. Getting this done so quickly and safely is a testament to hundreds of people who worked so hard. I have never been more proud to lead Milwaukee County.

Until further notice, access to the 10<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to the Courthouse will be restricted. Only necessary repair and restoration staff will be allowed through the doors. All other employees and the public can use the 9<sup>th</sup> and Wells Street entrances to the Courthouse. People can also enter through the Safety Building or Criminal Justice Facility and use the skywalk to the Courthouse. The Criminal Justice Facility entrance is handicap accessible.

## **Timeline of Events**

- July 6<sup>th</sup> - Electrical fire breaks out.
- July 6<sup>th</sup> - Massive effort to clean up and reopen the one million square foot Courthouse begins.
- July 10<sup>th</sup> - Safety Building reopens for Criminal Court hearings two business days after the fire.
- July 15<sup>th</sup> - Courthouse opens for most Court activity five business days after the fire.
- July 17<sup>th</sup> - Public services, including Marriage Licenses and Child Support Services reopen in the Courthouse open. Most services were being provided off-site during the closure.
- July 18<sup>th</sup> – Employees in many departments including Corporation Counsel, County Board and Risk Management move back into their offices.
- July 19 – 23<sup>rd</sup> – Courthouse and Safety Building removed from generator power and hooked into WE Energies utility grid. New power source is tested and tweaked.
- Today Courthouse fully reopens.
- Coming weeks:
  - Restoration work continues, mostly after business hours.
  - Carpet and ceiling tiles in many offices will be replaced.
  - Main electrical system will be rebuilt and replaced.

## **Daily Curfew**

Until otherwise notified, a curfew will be in place every day at the Courthouse and Safety Building from 6 p.m. - 12 a.m. Only key personnel will be allowed access.