



**John S. Richard**  
Director

**Brad Henry**  
Governor

STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL SERVICES

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Gerry Smedley

**Telephone:** (405) 522-8519

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**REPAIR WORK UNDERWAY AT THE OKLAHOMA JUDICIAL CENTER PROJECT**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** - The Department of Central Services announced today that work is well underway to stabilize and repair the cornice stones on the Oklahoma Judicial Center.

In March, several stones fell from the cornice on the new building addition, prompting the Department to take immediate steps to secure the area and prevent injury and further damage to the building. Since that time, DCS has been working with their team of architects, engineers and contractors to determine the cause, prevent additional stones from falling and develop a plan for permanent repair.

"We have received a forensic report from WJE, Engineers, Architects and Material Scientists, Chicago, Illinois, the firm retained to investigate the failure," indicated John Morrison, State Construction Administrator. "Based on the best information available to date, the report indicates that the failure was due to the use of epoxy in the anchor slots used to secure the stones to the structure. Apparently, epoxy expands when it cures, and the expansive pressure broke out sections on the back side of the stones, rendering the anchors ineffective," Morrison said.

All of the parties involved with the original construction have been meeting to determine the best course of action and WJE has provided engineering support to develop appropriate solutions. To date, the contractor has fabricated and installed temporary braces to prevent further failure of the cornice stones at critical areas around the building. Additional braces are being fabricated to secure the areas where workers require access to Phase II of the project, currently under construction.

"This morning, our project team reviewed preliminary drawings from WJE to permanently reattach the cornice stones," Morrison said. "Several good ideas to effectively and efficiently accomplish the necessary repair work were discussed, and WJE is checking to make sure the ideas will work from an engineering standpoint. The contractor will be putting together a mock-up so the installation issues can be tested on the ground, rather than 65 feet up in the air," he added.

Once the repairs are made, about ten of the damaged stones must be refabricated and installed. Minor damages will have to be repaired, and the cornice work resealed.

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Administration • Will Rogers Office Building (2401 N. Lincoln Boulevard), Suite 206 / P.O. Box 53218 • Oklahoma City, OK 73152-3218  
Telephone: 405/521-2121 • Fax: 405/521-6403 • [www.dcs.ok.gov](http://www.dcs.ok.gov)