

# NEWS



Edward A. Diana  
Orange County Executive

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OC Exec Diana Leads Tour of Storm Damaged Gov't Center** *Media, Legislators get first-hand look at closed building*

**Goshen** – In order to help the public gain a better understanding of the damage inflicted on the Orange County Government Center by Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, County Executive Edward A. Diana invited local media representatives to tour the closed building in Goshen. The County Executive was joined by Gary Scrittore, Deputy Commissioner of Buildings and Grounds, and air quality expert Dr. Marco Pedone, of Environmental Management Solutions. Representatives of LaBella Associates, Fusco Engineering, Fellenzer Engineering, and BBL, the consulting group hired by the Orange County Legislature to study the building prior to the storm damage, were also on-hand to explain the condition of the building and answer questions.

“Making the decision to close the Orange County Government Center and relocate more than 300 employees was not one that came lightly or easily, but rather one that was critically necessary,” said County Executive Diana. “As a County, we have a duty to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our residents, employees, and people we serve; it would be irresponsible to allow business to continue as usual in the damp, dank, mold-infested environment that developed in the Government Center following the flooding from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee,” continued Mr. Diana.

Dr. Pedone spoke to the deteriorating air quality in the building and highlighted numerous areas of mold growth both on the walls and behind the walls. Dr. Pedone explained that mold growth is being facilitated by the continued wet conditions and lack of ventilation within the building. The fact that the building is unoccupied has actually helped to slow the growth of mold as the spores settle instead of being stirred up and carried around the building by human traffic, added the doctor.

Media representatives were given access to all areas of the closed government center, including the switchgear room and the most affected area, the District Attorney’s office, which continues to have significant water infiltration despite on-going pumping.

County Executive Diana asked all those on the tour to remind their listeners, readers, and viewers that despite the closure of the building, Orange County Government is open for business.

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The new Court building remains open and the Courts are operating. All of the relocated County

services are operational in their new locations. A complete list of relocated departments and services is available on the County website at [www.orangecountygov.com](http://www.orangecountygov.com).

Since its closing, all Orange County legislators have also had the opportunity to tour the Government Center and view the damage for themselves and ask questions of the consultants.

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*Orange County Deputy Commissioner of Building and Grounds, Gary Scritore, and County Executive Edward A. Diana provided media representatives with an overview of building conditions prior to entering the building.*



*County Executive Diana toured media representatives through the closed Orange County Government Center for a first-hand look at the mold and storm damage.*