

Scripps/Treasure Coast News: Mahoney gives Courthouse Assurance to Fort Pierce Residents

TCPalm

October 19, 2007

U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney, D-Palm Beach Gardens, stopped by Coffee with the Mayor Friday morning to assure elected officials and residents plans for the federal courthouse are moving forward.

The federal government has allocated \$58.8 million in this year's budget for a new courthouse on 3.9 acres at the corner of Orange Avenue and U.S. 1. Construction was supposed to begin next month, but the project hit a snag when only one company bid on it. That bid came in \$12 million over budget.

After hearing the project was going to be delayed, Mahoney last month sent a letter asking the General Services Administration to explain why the federal courthouse may be encountering construction delays.

In a letter dated Oct. 18, an official with the General Services Administration told Mahoney the agency was in the process of identifying cost reductions that won't jeopardize the integrity of the building design. The official also said the agency hopes to award a construction contract sometime next year.

City and county officials are relying on the courthouse to help revitalize the western side of Orange Avenue. It's expected to pump an initial \$228 million into the local economy.