NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEWSDAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2001

City Hall Scheduled to Reopen Monday

By Curtis L. Taylor
STAFF WRITER

City government struggled to return to normal Friday as a crisis team, operating from an undisclosed location, worked to coordinate rescue efforts and maintain routine operations.

City Hall, the Municipal Building and other city agencies located south of 14th Street in the heart of rescue operations remained closed. But City Hall and parts of other key buildings were scheduled to reopen on Monday, officials said.

Working around the clock, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and agency heads were running the city from an undisclosed "nerve center" somewhere in Manhattan. The city's emergency management center, formerly located in the World Trade Center, was destroyed in Tuesday's attack on the complex, killing several government officials.

John Banks, chief of staff for Council Speaker Peter Vallone, said the council staff was preparing to return to City Hall on Monday.

"The building has power . . . They are working to restore telephone service," Banks said. "People will return to work as soon as possible. There is a contingency plan . . . for them to work in district offices near their homes."

But Banks was less optimistic about city office space at 250 Broadway, where debris needs to be cleaned away, and 75 Park Place, which sustained structural damage.

"It is a very difficult time for the council," said Deputy Majority Leader Archie Spigner (D-St. Albans).

Municipal services, such as trash pickup, remained in operation but were curtailed because city workers were needed to help with the rescue effort.

City Councilman Adolfo Carrion Jr. (D-Bronx) said that garbage pickup was canceled on Wednesday and rescheduled for Saturday in his district. He said phone service was out in his district.

"We will continue to work to restore city services to ensure that New Yorkers continue to enjoy the benefits of a democratic society," he said.

The city Campaign Finance Board and Board of Elections, located in lower Manhattan, were forced to temporarily move their operations even as a major primary election loomed. The election was rescheduled from Tuesday, the day of the World Trade Center attack, to Sept. 25.

The finance board, operating on Fordham University's Bronx campus, announced it would no longer provide public money for candidates other than what has already been allocated.

The Board of Elections shifted operations from Manhattan to its Brooklyn office, said Douglas Kellner, a board official.

Courts remained opened but operated at a snail's pace, court officials said. In Queens, jurors in Supreme Court were told not to report. The arraignment court was operating normally.

Schools were open and postal service has not been interrupted.

Most subways and buses were operating, except in lower Manhattan, but with frequent delays. There were problems with subway service from Brooklyn to Manhattan. There was no express bus service in Brooklyn, Queens, and parts of Manhattan.

Late Friday, there were also scattered reports of gridlock in midtown Manhattan.

Staff writer Robert Polner contributed to this story.

CITY_21MC100_011829406

NYC-WTC_000412148