

New Forensic Science Center Breaks Ground to Replace Aging Facility Near OSU's Campus

By Alexis Moberger | Fox News
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County leaders and the Franklin County Coroner broke ground on the new Franklin County Morgue and forensic science center set to open in 2020 (WSYX/WTTE)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WSYX/WTTE) — Wednesday morning, Franklin County Commissioners and Coroner, Dr. Anahi Ortiz, broke ground on a new \$37 million Forensic Science Center.

The new center will be right off Frank Road and will replace the current morgue on King Avenue, which has been used since 1975.

"It's something we've been waiting for, for a long time," said Ortiz.

The current coroner's office has had its challenges due to small space. Now, the Coroner and her staff are counting down the days until the new center opens. Right now, the coroner's office currently only has three operating tables.

"We'll have days where we have anywhere from six to 14 cases and you can imagine, it will be in rotation and depending on the complexity of the cases, it can take 40 minutes to two hours for a case to complete," said Ortiz.

Because of the small space, they can only get so many cases done in a day.

"This is the natural next step with the ability to treat people in death and their families and their friends with the dignity and respect that works," said Commissioner Marilyn Brown.

The new center will be about 57,000 square feet, making it three times larger than the current coroner's office. It will include eight autopsy stations.

"It needs to be done in a way that is responsible, respectful and accurate," said Brown. "And we'll have all of what is needed here to be able to do it right."

The new space will also have an expanded toxicology lab, larger facilities and a viewing room for families.

The new forensic science center is set to open in 2020.