A milestone in the evolution of the Bucks County Justice Center complex was reached on the morning of July 19, as Bucks County Commissioners Charles H. Martin, chairman, and Robert G. Loughery joined former Commissioner and Pennsylvania Lt. Governor James F. Cawley, Esq., Bucks County President Judge Susan D. Scott, Doylestown Borough Mayor Libby White and Doylestown Borough Council Vice President Lou White for a ceremonial groundbreaking.

The kickoff to the $84 million Justice Center took place at the building site between Shewell Ave. and N. Main St. According to county Director of Operations Jerry Anderson, the tentative timetable for construction calls for a substantial completion by fall 2013.

"This is an important day because we are launching the largest – and probably most expensive – project that the county has ever undertaken," stated Chairman Martin.

President Judge Scott joined several members of the county judiciary, including the Hon. Jeffrey L. Finley, the Hon. Robert O. Baldi, the Hon. Diane E. Gibbons and the Hon. James M. McMaster. Also on hand were former president judge and current District Attorney David W. Heckler, and county Chief Operating Officer Brian Hessenthaler.

"I can’t tell you how glad I am and, on behalf of the Board of Judges, how glad we all are to be here today," Judge Scott observed. "There are many judges who never thought this day would come. Some of them are retired now."

Commissioner Loughery pointed his remarks toward the work to be done, both at the new Justice Center site and in plotting the future of the current Courthouse/Administration Building. "It's a privilege to be part of such an important project for our judicial system," he noted. "I'm thrilled to be starting a new chapter."

Lieutenant Gov. Jim Cawley reflected on his involvement with the project as a county commissioner from 2005-2011, adding "I look forward to being back very soon for a ribbon cutting."

Doylestown Borough Mayor Libby White lauded the working relationship between Borough and County officials throughout the new Parking Garage construction, the former parking Garage demotion, and moving ahead with the Justice Center project.

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Mayor White also addressed “green” building elements that will be incorporated into the Justice Center construction. “It’s really amazing that we are now ready to put bricks and mortar together, and we are doing it in the most environmentally friendly way possible.” She singled out efforts such as recycling construction debris, recycled construction materials, insulation upgrades and the use of high efficiency windows, lighting and heating and cooling elements.

Chairman Martin also thanked Borough officials, including Borough Manager John Davis and Assistant Borough Manager/Zoning Officer Phil Ehlinger.

On July 19, 2011, I joined Commissioner Rob Loughery, President Judge Susan Scott, Doylestown Borough Mayor Libby White, government colleagues, architects, construction officials and members of the Bucks County community to break ground on our new, 285,000-square foot Justice Center on the site of the former Bucks County Parking Garage.

This groundbreaking signaled a very significant milestone in this project. As Mayor White stated eloquently, we are “ready to put bricks and mortar together.” We reiterate our commitment to the residents of Doylestown Borough that we will make every attempt to be a good neighbor throughout the anticipated 2 ½ years of construction. As the project advances, we will work with borough officials and residents to minimize disruption around the construction site.