



Timeline Photography

# TOWER OF CHANGE

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## News from the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Justice Center Project

### Above Ceilings and Behind Walls

The Juvenile Justice Center Project (JJC) requires plenty of electric wiring for lighting, as well as extensive data wiring for low-voltage cable that powers electronics, phones and the Internet. That calls for an extensive system of conduits housed above ceilings and behind walls. These cables are positioned in cable tray systems mounted on continuous suspended ladder racks.

In this issue, we highlight interiors electrical contractor ESI Electric, which is tasked with installing light fixtures, controls, outlets, switches and all the wiring that powers them. It is also responsible for its subcontractors, Minority Electric and U.S. Communications which provide telecommunications, security and fire alarm systems.

### ESI Electric: Providing the Power

As the interiors electrical contractor on the Juvenile Justice Center Project (JJC), ESI Electric (ESI) is responsible for all the building's lighting fixtures. The company came on site full time in November 2009, according to Ted Daly, ESI's project manager. "Our job is to procure and install the light fixtures, lighting controls and switches and all the wiring to power them," he explained. Among these are custom fixtures for some of the courtrooms and also the Great Hall, which is the building's main lobby.

"I think the biggest challenge for us has been to procure the light fixtures in a timely fashion, given the schedule restraints," Daly said. "Another challenge was the roughing in of the electrical outlets and light

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Lisa Toplovich ESI Foreman and Gary Laidman ESI Vice President review blueprints

### Meet David Barnes

David Barnes is an electrician with ESI Electric and has been in the field for six years. "I'm a technical person, so I enjoy the application of electrical power and how it relates to work," he said. "When I was growing up I was notorious for tearing apart electronic things to see how they work. Then I would put them back together again."



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David Barnes

**Daily Duties:** "We're responsible for general power and lighting everywhere throughout the tower – in the courtrooms, offices, staff rooms and holding cells. I'm responsible for wiring up the circuitry for the lighting, the power to the lighting and switches for the lighting and general power. I'm working behind walls and ceilings."

**What He Likes About His Job:** I like the technical aspects of it. I enjoy putting things together and seeing how it all comes together when it's done.

**Biggest Challenge at the JJC Project:** Getting into tight spaces – ceilings and walls – to make sure the receptacles fit properly.

**His Thoughts on the JJC Project:** I think it will provide some job opportunities within walking distance. The location is a bit unusual because it's in a residential neighborhood.

**When He's Not Working:** I'm a professional volleyball official and coach. I'm also an avid volleyball player myself. I'm also engaged to get married next April.

**Best Advice He Has Received:** It's better to be looking at it than looking for it. This is good advice for an electrician.

**His Best Advice:** Be serious about what you do because that may be where you are for the rest of your life. Consistency is the foundation of excellence.

#### Quick Fact

ESI Electric will install approximately 5,500 light fixtures, 2,700 outlets and 1,000 light switches. Minority Electric will install 30,000 feet of conduit in its fire alarm system, which will contain about 80,000 feet of fire alarm wire.

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"You're not obligated to win. You're obligated to keep trying to do the best you can every day." – Marian Wright Edelman



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Electrician Gary Gubanich runs cable through metal studs for office receptacles

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fixtures for the courtrooms, because of all the many different wall finishes that are unique to a courtroom. We had to work around those different finishes." ESI is also responsible for telecommunications, security and fire alarm systems. "We subcontracted these responsibilities out to two other companies – Minority Electric and U.S. Communications," Daly explained. Minority Electric is installing the conduits and cable tray system for the teledata wiring. "The conduits in the wall are part of the network to run the cable wiring for their computer system," explains Minority Electric Project Manager Tim Fowler. "We're installing the cable tray system, which are continuous ladder racks that are suspended throughout all the corridors to hold the low-voltage cable for data wiring for their electronics, phones, WiFi and Internet. We're also installing the complete fire alarm system."

ESI has 36 employees on site, including those from Minority Electric and U.S. Communications.



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David Barnes installs wires for lighting the investigator's offices

## Perseverance Pays

**W**hile working in the Metroparks as a teen, Aquil Zayid-Bey realized he thrived while outdoors.

The youngest of five children, Zayid-Bey grew up in the Collinwood area. After several stints at factory jobs, driving commercial vehicles and electrical work, Zayid-Bey decided there was more. So he signed up for the UCIP-ASAP eight-week pre-construction apprenticeship program, graduating at the top of his class.

"After working as a laborer for Local 310, I decided that I wanted to start my own business. As a laborer, you have to learn all the trades. We are the background of the workers. Since I was already in the field, I decided to take it to another level," he said.

"I landed the first contract for A1Z Enterprises after 16 months. I persevered, not taking no for an answer. It



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Aquil Zayid-Bey of A1Z Enterprises

took me almost 40 years to get here, but I figured it out and I like where I am now," he said. Now as managing partner, Zayid-Bey rises early, arriving at the JJC Quincy parking lot by 6 a.m.

"I am the first one here opening the gates for the construction management workers," he explained. Among his responsibilities is making sure the employees arrive safely to their destinations. His company cleaned and striped the parking lot and was also responsible for removing the temporary fence.

When asked about his time as a laborer, Zayid-Bey said it was a great experience. "It opened doors. I learned how to work with and handle people of all personalities and backgrounds. You have to do that to get what you want done."

## Plenty of Parking

**A** building the size of the new Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) requires plenty of parking. And that's exactly what's planned.

According to Gerard Prepetit, project manager of HEERY International, owners representative for the JJC, there will be three surface parking lots, and for judges a one-story parking garage.

"The Quincy parking lot and the Beckman lots will be completed this year," he explained, "and construction on the Capitol lot is slated to begin March 2012."

The Quincy parking lot is on Quincy Avenue, north of the JJC. It comprises two sections. Quincy West is for public parking, and Quincy East is designated



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Gerard Prepetit, project manager of HEERY International, in the Quincy parking lot

for staff. Together, the sections will accommodate 405 vehicles.

The Beckman and Capitol lots are both on East 93rd Street, west of the JJC, and are also for staff use. The Beckman lot has room for 183 vehicles, while the Capitol lot will hold 62.

"The Capitol lot has a late construction start of March 2012 because the City of Cleveland will use it as a staging area for constructing the East 93rd Street bridge," Prepetit said. "Bridge construction has a 15-month schedule - to begin mid-September 2010 and end February 2012."

Once parking is complete, there will be plenty of space for employees, visitors and others just dropping by.

The Tower of Change is a monthly publication of Cuyahoga County. For comments, suggestions and story ideas, please contact Montrie Rucker Adams at 440-684-9920 or info@visibilitymarketing.com

"Progress is the attraction that moves humanity." – Marcus Garvey