FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
Capital Construction and Renovations Department
DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2020

CONSTRUCTION ALERT

CONCERNING IMMINENT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

McCormick Observatory Dome Repairs

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Starting Tuesday May 26, 2020, construction activities will begin at the McCormick Observatory to improve the dome's shutter operation. Construction activities will include the removal and replacement of the shutter rollers using an aerial boom lift. This project is anticipated to take one month.

Please see the site plan below showing the area affected by this work.

IMPACTS:

Construction noises will be generated by aerial boom lift operation along with tasks associated with cleaning metal surfaces. The Observatory will remain closed to visitors for the duration of the project and the site will be closed while work is being performed. Working hours will be between 7AM-5PM and are weather dependent. If someone needs access to the Observatory while work is ongoing please contact one of the project members listed below.

BACKGROUND:

The McCormick Observatory, built in 1885, has a largely original Warner & Swasey dome mechanism for opening and closing three pairs of shutters on the dome. The original bearings inside the iron rollers have deteriorated from general use and environmental exposure over the last 135 years, making the dome's shutters difficult to open and close. Replacement of the rollers will improve functionality of the shutters and alleviate undue stress on the other shutter components.

ISSUED BY:

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Gate will be closed to limit vehicular traffic during work

Location of lift during work in yellow

Area of construction safety fence and signage in orange