

# Emails before building collapse, \$9 million in repairs needed

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BALTIMORE (WBFF) - The search for survivors continues 4 days after the deadly collapse of the Surfside condo south complex. Rescuers were running out of time and for some hope as more remains were recovered in the effort to dig a massive trench through the heap of debris.

"It was bad known, this was bad this should have never happened that's the tragedy of this event," Gregg Schlesinger.

Schlesinger is a lawyer who specializes in cases involving construction defects and failure, he says there was a massive failure to fix a known issue as new details emerge in the wake of a troubling report done 3 years before the deadly collapse.

A structural engineering firm, Baltimore county based Morabito consultants estimated the major repairs the building needed would cost more than \$9 millions dollars.

"You have to have ripped out a lot of those balconies, those slabs and repaired it and those repairs are very costly," said Schlesinger.

Emails from Morabito detailed the damage coming on the heels of their 2018 report finding "major structural damage" to the building.

In the parking garage underneath the 13-story structure, spalling, a term used describe area of concrete that have cracked or crumbled they cited "abundant cracking and spalling of varying degrees in the concrete columns, beams and walls."

The report gave no indication of the catastrophic collapse to come.

Schlesinger says it should have been addressed immediately.

"In that report it says in the façade there is appears to be structural defects and nothing was done, that is what was really scary, respect, repair maintain, spend the money to do the work."

