

# Connelly raps plan for state offices

Because ample space is available in the Staten Island Developmental Center, moving state offices from the World Trade Center to Pouch Terminal would be a waste of taxpayers' money, Assemblywoman Elizabeth A. Connelly said yesterday.

"We'll soon have more than a dozen buildings at the Staten Island Developmental Center — buildings which the state already owns," she said. "In light of this, I can't understand why the state would want to pay rent for Pouch Terminal."

Mrs. Connelly noted that the state is spending \$156,000 to have the Staten Island Developmental Center studied in preparation to relocate offices from the World Trade Center, which may be sold.

Nonetheless, she said, the state is considering renting space in Pouch Terminal.

"There seems to be a contradiction," the West Brighton Democrat said. "What's the study for? Is it a whitewash? I'm starting to wonder if it's a prelude to an attempt to sell the developmental center."

Mrs. Connelly said officials of the state's Office of General Services met with her staff recently and said there was no reason why the developmental center cannot be used for state offices, including a permanent location for the Island Motor Vehicles office.

In October, John Signorelli of the General Services Division of Space Procurement and Allocation, and Joseph Siggia, head of the General Services task force to relocate state offices from the trade center, toured the developmental center, Mrs. Connelly said.

"These gentlemen liked what they saw," she said. "They told us the buildings were in excellent shape, and that they could easily be converted into offices. They said it's a feather in their cap to reuse buildings already owned by the state."

In addition, Mrs. Connelly said, the developmental center is more accessible by car than Pouch Terminal.

Mrs. Connelly noted that the developmen-

tal center is reducing its population, thus making the center's buildings available.

She said state officials thought Building 18 of the developmental center "would be ideal" as a permanent home for the Department of Motor Vehicles.

"The Staten Island Developmental Center is a valuable resource," Mrs. Connelly said.

"Too many people are concerned with its future to let it slip away.

"The Pouch Terminal idea," she said, "seems like a good way to waste the taxpayers' money. I can promise that there will be a great deal of scrutiny if that move ever becomes imminent."

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