

Board members cool to study on Developmental Center

By THOMAS CHECCHI

The very early stages of a study on the future of more than 300 acres of the Staten Island Developmental Center met with skeptical questioning and criticism last night when the findings were presented to members of Community Board 2.

While it was only a sketchy report on the first phase of a state-commissioned study on possible development of the land, board members berated the report as being too market-oriented by fo-

cus on the potential for residential and commercial development.

The presentation was given in the board's headquarters in Sea View Hospital and Home by consultants hired to analyze property that is to be surplus when the Willowbrook institution reduces its population in coming years.

Jack Deitch, chairman of the board Land Use Committee, said, for example, that the initial report seemed to focus on little more than the land's marketabi-

lity for residential development. "Why not think about future generations?" he asked. "Have you considered just keeping it as a land bank" or as a site for a "cultural center or civic center . . . something that might be necessary in 25 years? Why use up every inch of land? Why not save it?"

While Deitch's suggestion was termed a "legitimate proposal" by Donald Elliott, an attorney for Gruen Associates, the consulting

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Donald Elliott, an attorney for Gruen Associates, talks about the consulting firm's preliminary study of more than 300 acres on the property occupied by the Staten Island Developmental Center. Elliott made his presentation to Community Board 2 in Sea View Hospital and Home.

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