

Chunks of Island money throughout state budget

By DAN JANISON
Advance Albany Bureau

ALBANY — Pieces of the future of several Staten Island services and agencies are scattered about the thick budget document being distributed today to legislators.

For example, the state Mental Hygiene Department would spend a total \$37.6 million on institutional and community services programs in the borough in the coming fiscal year, one section states.

The same part of the proposed budget from Gov. Mario M. Cuomo mentions the previously announced plan to close Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook.

The department should spend \$12.8 million in "new capital appropriations," including \$11.4 million to find, design and build and equip residential facilities for 300 mentally retarded and disabled clients, it states.

"These sites are expected to be operational in 1985-86 and are integral to the state's plan to close (Willowbrook)," Cuomo added in the budget message.

Planned closure has been targeted at mid-1987 for the facility, which the governor has cited in part as a symbolic move against what was once a national example of neglect.

Added to the stated plan, expressed Jan. 6 in Cuomo's State of the State address, is the budgetary suggestion that the coming fiscal year "include funding for the development of new facilities which will be available to deinstitutionalize" residents of that center.

Adult facility services at South Beach Psychiatric Center, meanwhile, should total \$32.9 million and children's services there should total \$3.2 million, according to Cuomo.

New monies in the hundreds of thousands of dollars are also recommended for resource re-

covery projects, which could affect the current furor over the Fresh Kills landfill.

One prominent Staten Island resident could lose a lucrative job under the proposed budget. James F. Regan of Great Kills, president of the city Board of Education, also is chairman of the Commission on Public Employee Pensions and Retirement Systems.

Cuomo is advising abolition of the commission effective next July 31, because, he says, "Although the executive and legislative branches once looked to the commission for analyses of pension issues, both have developed their own expertise in recent years."

As a result, the lawmakers can now "conduct studies, monitor costs and recommend necessary reforms" on their own, Cuomo says. An appropriation of \$93,700 — four months of funding — is also suggested, to finish the current session.

Last year, the commission was budgeted for \$253,193. It is among a number of legislative commissions that Cuomo would have de-funded.

Every year, the budget includes a question mark for aid to Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Livingston. This year, in the proposal, there is an item providing for general fund aid through the city. But the \$300,000 appropriated last year is omitted in the proposal.

However, a Cuomo aide, speaking on the condition his name not be used, said he expects lawmakers to restore the financial support. "We're leaving it to the Legislature to put back," he said.

Budget shuffling for the Island branch of the City University of New York is apparent. Overall, the budget suggests that the College of Staten Island get \$147,000 more than last year, but certain

categories are changed.

Funds for "interdepartmental research and instruction" for the college and "student affairs and student aid" should undergo cuts to make way for "institutional support services" and "academic support services" increases, the document says.

Arthur Kill Correctional Facility is projected to have 840 inmates at fiscal year's end, March 31. A Cuomo budget aide said renovation monies are expected to continue for the site but no change in its population, size or role in the state prison system is expected.

Also called for in the budget is \$1.8 million for a federal, state and city program to "remove hazardous derelict structures from the New York Harbor area."

Millions for the cleanup and detection of hazardous waste dump sites around the state are also recommended.

Meanwhile, the Island office of the state Department of Motor Vehicles, jammed and apparently not helped by cutbacks in personnel last year, may get some relief with a proposed \$11 million increase for the department's operations budget.

The Island is also mentioned in another section of the budget — proposals to increase by \$214,000 the funding for the state Commission on Cable Television. Growth of interest as a result of "recently awarded franchises" for the four boroughs outside of Manhattan has been cited.

Cuomo, in a lengthy summary of economic development activity, also includes mention of the Port Authority's Teleport project, which he notes is due for completion "in 1984-85."

"Upon completion, the Teleport is expected to generate more than 3,000 new jobs," he writes.