

# College ponders new site

By MARY ENGELS

The College of Staten Island has expressed a "definite interest" in the possibility of relocating its new campus at the Staten Island Developmental Center site when it becomes available.

The announcement came this week at a meeting of the Staten Island Developmental Center Advisory Council, whose members are looking into proposals for the future of the giant complex (formerly Willowbrook).

It eventually will be phased out as a center for the mentally retarded and the developmentally disabled, except for a site for about 250 clients who will remain on the property.

Raymond Koloski, of the Office of General Services for New York State, said, "We have received a letter from the college stating their interest in specific form."

**KOLOSKI NOTED** that members of the OGS and college officials had met earlier to discuss specifics of the proposal.

"We asked them to send us within two weeks a preliminary report and give their indication and extent of their interest and desirability in relocation and consolidation of their new college.

"They told us they had state funding for a study for a complete master plan, but we said we wished a bubble concept from them to show the extent of their interest, and we will plug it into our overall evaluation for the use of the Staten Island Developmental Center property."

The letter, which was sent by City University Chancellor Joseph Murphy, indicated the college would be interested in "110 acres plus expansion possibilities.

"SPECIFICALLY, interest lies in retaining many of the buildings and possibly renovation of some, or a combination of both," said Koloski.

Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly (D-S.I.) and Philip Scampas, Community Board 2 chairman, expressed dissatisfaction over the proposal.

Scampas said his board "had gone off the deep end to see that the college got the Ocean Breeze site.

"We went to the community with the proposal, and the community will feel 'what's going on?' We are now being given a secondhand site with secondhand buildings.

"Staten Islanders want a new site," Scampas declared. He said he planned to call a special meeting of the board's South Beach site review committee, the college officials and the adjacent Staten Island Hospital officials who had planned to work with the college in an educational capacity.

Connelly felt that college president Edmund Volpe "had been sold a bill of goods by the state Division of Budget who see the Willowbrook site as a less expensive way of getting a new college."

"I feel someone should have told us about this new turn of developments," the assemblywoman added.

*Read Mary Engel's story in this Sunday's Daily News about the many other proposals concerning the future of the huge former Willowbrook complex.*