

SIDC future use argued at lunch

By JULIE MACK
Advance Staff Writer

The needs of handicapped persons should be the top priority in determining future use of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC) property, advocates for the mentally retarded told city and state officials yesterday.

The possibility that the College of Staten Island (CSI) may acquire most of the surplus property drew attack from a spokeswoman for the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Council (SIRRDC), who said that after giving property to CSI there would be little room for anything else.

SIRRDC wants all 300 acres of surplus property at SIDC for residential and recreational facilities for the disabled.

"We are being asked to play second banana to the college, and we can't get any response on our ideas until the college makes up its mind what it wants to do," Genevieve Benoit said yesterday at SIRRDC's annual legislative



Assemblyman Robert A. Straniere addresses a luncheon meeting of the Staten Island Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Council. Left to right are Thomas LaManna, an aide to Borough President Ralph Lamberti; Barry Friedland, chairman of the council; Straniere; James Walsh, director of the Staten Island Developmental Center, and Diane Buglioli, council vice chairman.

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