

CSI report favors SIDC campus

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The College of Staten Island's formal proposal on the consolidation of its Sunnyside and St. George campuses will be "very positive on Willowbrook" as the school's new site, a spokesman for the school said yesterday.

The report, which is expected to be released before Jan. 7, will strongly favor the consolidation of the school's two campuses on 160 of the 382 acres that make up

the present site of the Staten Island Developmental Center (SIDC), according to Brian Morris, a spokesman for the college.

Morris said the report — which was prepared by Edward Durrell Stone Associates, a Manhattan engineering consulting firm — concluded that the SIDC site was far superior to three other options studied. Those options consisted of building a new campus in Ocean Breeze or expanding either the present Sun-

nyside or St. George campuses.

The final report also states that the college's proposed move to the already existing buildings on the Willowbrook site would cost some \$70 million less than building a new facility in Ocean Breeze. In 1982, the cost of the South Beach option was estimated at \$200 million, based on a 1984 construction starting date.

In addition, the report calls the cost differential between ex-

panding the present Sunnyside campus, as compared to transferring it to the SIDC site, "negligible," Morris said.

The college hopes the formal proposal will be ready before Jan. 7, when the City University of New York (CUNY) trustees are to meet. The trustees will study the proposal before making a decision on the report. They will then make their recommendations to the CUNY Board of Directors, scheduled to

meet on Jan. 28.

Sometime between Jan. 7 and 28, copies of the formal proposal will be sent to Community Board 2, whose jurisdiction includes Willowbrook; all local and state elected officials; the state task force currently considering the future of the SIDC property; and the state Office of General Services, Morris said.

The CSI proposal is not expected to deal directly with any of the tangential issues related

to its possible move to Willowbrook, Morris said.

However, Harry Friedland, chairman of the Staten Island Regional Retardation and Disabilities Council, yesterday said his organization and state and community groups are awaiting the college's formal decision before continuing to push their various plans for using the remainder of the 382-acre SIDC site.

"At the moment, we have nothing to react to," Friedland, whose group is composed of numerous Staten Island provider organizations for the disabled and handicapped, said.

Among the tangential issues which may be affected by the college's decision to move to Willowbrook are the state's desire to use part of Corson's Brook Woods for the construction of four group homes to be run by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), and local efforts to establish recreational facilities for the retarded, including an Olympic-size pool and a 60-acre camp.

The use of the Corson's Brook Woods acreage for the group homes is being opposed by environmentalists and city officials who have tagged the area for inclusion in the Greenbelt. The Protectors of Pine Oak Woods, a local environmental group, is seeking a permanent court injunction to prevent the state from building there.

Arthur Webb, commissioner of OMRDD, which operates the SIDC, is already on record as supporting the college's move to Willowbrook, in the hope that the school will help operate the programs for the retarded that the state is proposing for the site once the developmental center is phased out.