

CB 2 wants more study of proposed CSI move

By JIM BUELL
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Community Board 2 called on the city Transportation Department last night to assess the impact on traffic of the College of Staten Island's proposed move to the grounds of the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook.

In a motion that passed 38-3, the board also requested that responsible agencies study the environmental impact of the proposed move. The vote came during the board's monthly meeting in the Sea View Hospital and Home auditorium.

Bernard Kosinski, who sponsored the motion calling for both studies, argued that consultants hired by the college did not address the issue of traffic in a report which favored construction at Willowbrook over other sites. The study, prepared by Edward Durell Stone Associates, concluded that the college could consolidate its St. George and Sunnyside operations most inexpensively by moving to the developmental center.

The board itself favors building the college at a site in Ocean Breeze, on vacant land the state purchased for that purpose several years ago. In October, Board 2 voted by a 27-0 margin to continue its support for building at the Ocean Breeze site, located next to Staten Island Hospital.

Chairman Edmund Murphy and other members have warned that cars driven by students and teachers could tie up traffic on the Staten Island Expressway and other routes leading to the

Willowbrook center.

Murphy ruled out of order an attempt made last night by member Harold Zavin to overturn the effects of the October vote. Zavin, chairman of the board's Area III committee, whose boundaries take in the Willowbrook land, called on the board to support consolidation of CSI at the developmental center.

"The people of Willowbrook would like the campus there," he said, referring to comments made by neighborhood residents at a hearing held this month at Sea View. Zavin charged that most of the Board 2 members who favored consolidating at Ocean Breeze are residents of the Ocean Breeze-South Beach-Midland Beach area, who he said would see the values of their homes rise if the college becomes a neighbor.

But Murphy pointed out that according to Board 2's bylaws, votes on matters already decided can be overturned only after the initial vote is rescinded by a two-thirds margin. That would require vote-switching by 18 of the 27 people who voted four months ago to push for consolidating at Ocean Breeze, according to the chairman's interpretation.

Faced with the task of convincing those voters to switch, Zavin withdrew his resolution.

In other business, board members reacted angrily to news that the Postal Service wants to build a new office on Hylan Boulevard in New Dorp. Traffic problems again were cited.

The office would be located next to the Diner of the 80s, near

the southwest corner of Hylan and New Dorp Lane.

Philip Scampas, land use chairman, said the office would serve as a distribution point for all mail going to the South Shore. He also said the Postal Service wants to include 1,000 post office boxes there, warning that even if mail were picked up from each box just three times a week, that would mean 3,000 more cars per week would be traveling to the block.

"Opposition to it (the office) is coming in hot and heavy" from community groups, Raymond Watson, buildings committee chairman, said. His committee opposes the planned move.

Board members asked that Murphy invite Postal Service representatives to a future meeting to discuss the plan. However, member Harold Johns cautioned that the office would conform to the area's commercial zoning, so Board 2 cannot expect to have a direct voice in the decision.

The board also voted 37-0 to ask the city to withdraw from auction a strip of land on the north side of Quintard Street between Quincy and Oceanside Avenues in South Beach. The city Planning Department opposes the sale because the land is within a protected wetlands area, according to Scampas. He also noted that the land is next to the Ocean Breeze site the board favors for the college.

In addition, the board elected a five-member committee to choose nominees for board offices. Elections will be held at the March meeting.